

Flying colours: a Buccaneer long-range strike aircraft, resprayed in sand-coloured livery for service in the Gulf, being rolled out of a paint hangar at RAF Lossiemouth yesterday

## US accuses Iraq of creating vast oil slick in Gulf

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON and CHRISTOPHER WALKER in JERUSALEM

IRAQ is pumping "huge quantities" of crude oil into the Gulf, threatening an environmental catastrophe in its attempt to hamper the allied naval war effort, the White House said yesterday.

Oil had been pouring from the Mina al-Ahmadi pumping station in Kuwait for three days and had already caused a slick ten miles long and two miles wide, Saudi military officials said. The station was capable of releasing 100,000 gallons a day.

The White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said Saddam Hussein was expected to pump out many millions of gallons, causing environmental problems that would dwarf those of the Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989. Then, 11 million gallons of oil were

dumped into Prince William Sound, Alaska, fouling hundreds of miles of shoreline. "It's a good likelihood that it will be several times larger than that," Mr Fitzwater said.

America was urging consulting other countries, scientists and environmental agencies to develop a plan to deal with the spill, which could affect drinking water supplies in Gulf countries. "It could well be the kind of disaster that would be beyond most of the accepted clean-up techniques," Mr Fitzwater said. It was possible that a military strike might be launched to stanch the flow.

"Iraq has brutalised and pillaged Kuwait and practised indiscriminate killing of Kuwaiti citizens. Saddam has exhibited no decency in dealing with human life. We could not expect anything but the same disregard for the environment."

Mr Fitzwater insisted, however, that the tactic would not affect the course of war, saying the military could plan around it. Other allied sources said that the international coalition intended to pick up the bombing pace and yesterday more waves of allied aircraft roared off on bombing runs in clear skies, targeting the Republican Guard troops and Iraqi missile launching sites.

Iraq again fired a barrage of Scud rockets at Tel Aviv and Haifa in Israel last night, but they hit a screen of Patriot missiles. An Israeli military spokesman said all seven rockets had been hit, although some of the damaged Scuds fell to the ground and exploded. Initial reports said that one person had died and 40 people had been injured.

In Tel Aviv, one missile — either a damaged Scud out of control or a pursuing Patriot — roared past at roof level, orange flame pouring from its propulsion motor, just above the heads of terrified people running for sealed rooms and bomb shelters.

The attack, the fifth on

Israel in a week, was judged to have failed and to have revealed the secret missile sites in western Iraq from which the Scuds were launched. But it brought further pressure for either a concerted allied assault on air bases and missile sites in western Iraq or an Israeli strike designed to smash the mobile Scud launchers once and for all.

Israeli defence experts said such a strike would not split the Western-Arab alliance but would have the approval, either tacit or overt, of the Arab members of the coalition, including Syria.

Hirsch Goodman, a leading military commentator, said the time had come for Israel, as the "regional superpower", to use its new generation weapons with their "pinpoint accuracy and devastating effect" to deal directly with the Iraqi threat to Israel.

Other commentators said that if Israel did abandon its policy of restraint, it would probably confine itself to a strike at western Iraq, leaving the allies free to concentrate on the main front. "Saddam may yet succeed in opening a second front with Israel, a deadly and powerful enemy," one expert said. "But it does not follow that in doing so he will undermine the cohesion of the allies. He may end up fighting on two fronts."

Earlier yesterday, America had rushed more Patriots to Israel and said they would be operation "in a short time". Germany, whose foreign minister has just completed a two-day goodwill visit to Jerusalem, was also reported to have offered Patriots to protect Israel.

Meanwhile, Baghdad dismissed allied claims of success in recapturing the island of Qaruh, saying it had withdrawn its troops for military reasons. Iraq also announced that it was suspending television broadcasts of interviews with prisoners of war, saying they had served their purpose.

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## Tornado critics rebuked

From LYN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

ARMCHAIR military experts who have been criticising the Tornado missions, in which six planes have been lost so far, were dismissed yesterday as alarmist by one detachment commander.

Group Captain David Henderson attacked a retired US Air Force major-general for saying that the RAF was performing poorly in the Gulf. The British officer's attack was an uncharacteristic departure from non-controversial comments.

The criticism, he said, was unjustified and was also very upsetting for the families of airmen who are missing and of those still flying. He added that he regretted the release of too many details on tactical strategy.

"I'm getting quite sick of people talking about the Tornado mission failure, and I have unfortunately heard a very brief clip from a retired US Air Force major-general, by the name of Terry Smith, who said he was disappointed by the very poor performance of the Royal Air Force."

"That sort of language makes me, as a commander in the field, very disappointed that senior military officers are saying things like that."

During his daily briefing, he also said that missions had been effective and would continue to be. "I do not think it is

Continued on page 22, col 7

## Saddam is a loser, British general says

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE commander of British forces in the Gulf yesterday accused Iraq's air force of being "too frightened" to fight, as Royal Navy warships chased Iraqi missile-armed patrol boats in the north of the Gulf.

La-Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, speaking publicly for the first time since the allied air campaign began, said that the Iraqis were being led "by a loser".

He also made it clear that a land war was unavoidable, unless President Saddam Hussein had a change of mind. "If Saddam Hussein gets out of Kuwait, there won't be [a land war]. If he doesn't, there will be," Sir Peter said.

In London, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff, denied that the allies were setting out to make Saddam a target, and said that the aim was only to free Kuwait. He was responding to a report in *The Washington Post* suggesting that Saddam was a priority target for allied bombers.

In spite of British insistence that there was no such military objective, there is a growing awareness that the UN Security Council resolution authorising force and calling for measures to guarantee the stability of the Middle East, will be interpreted broadly by American and British forces.

A British officer in Saudi Arabia was quoted as suggesting that the amount of firepower being rushed forward by the Americans indicated

expanded US mission: a drive north to capture Iraqi territory to humiliate Saddam.

General Maurice Schmitt, the French armed forces chief, when asked yesterday about the chances of Saddam being eliminated, said: "One must use good sense. Neither the Americans... nor the French, nor the others thought for a single minute that it was possible, especially through air action, to go after a man."

He added: "Saddam Hussein is certainly well protected. He has lots of bottles of mineral water at his side to last a long time, boxes of rations, maybe even other things. So I don't personally think he risks much."

In Moscow, the independent Interfax news agency said that the Iraqi leader had ordered the shooting of his senior air force and air defence commanders after suffering losses. The Iraqi embassy in Moscow denied the report, saying that it was psychological warfare being waged against Baghdad.

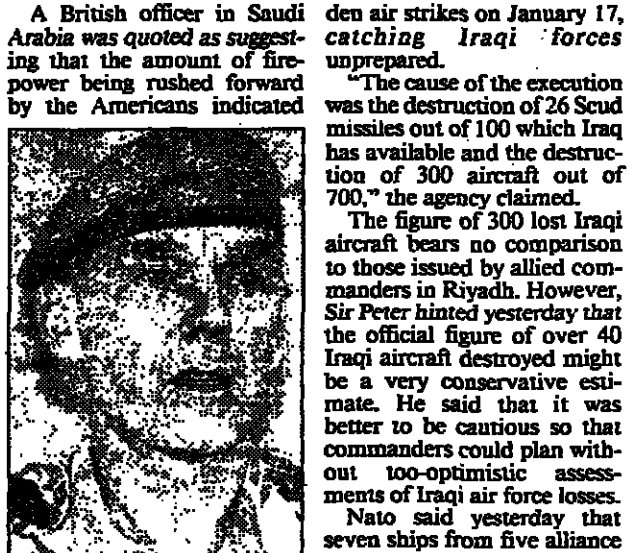
Both the Soviet defence ministry and the Pentagon said that they could neither confirm nor deny the report. In London, Sir David Craig said that he was unaware of it. Interfax said that according to "well-informed Soviet military sources" Saddam had ordered the executions after US-led forces launched sudden air strikes on January 17, catching Iraqi forces unprepared.

The cause of the execution was the destruction of 26 Scud missiles out of 100 which Iraq has available and the destruction of 300 aircraft out of 700, the agency claimed.

The figure of 300 lost Iraqi aircraft bears no comparison to those issued by allied commanders in Riyadh. However, Sir Peter hinted yesterday that the official figure of over 40 Iraqi aircraft destroyed might be a very conservative estimate. He said that it was better to be cautious so that commanders could plan without too optimistic assessments of Iraqi air force losses.

Nato said yesterday that seven ships from five alliance nations will soon sail to the Mediterranean to help guard against mines in sea lanes.

De la Billière: Iraqi air force scared to fight



De la Billière: Iraqi air force scared to fight

## Dry facts from a cactus among the cowboys

By ALAN HAMILTON



Craig: man immune from excitement and optimism

WHEN Hollywood gets round to casting its inevitable Gulf war movie, there will be a row over whether the part of General Norman Schwarzkopf goes to George C. Scott or Jack Nicholson. If the part of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff, is assigned to a tree, it should at least be a stout English oak.

As a media performer in the cast of military briefers running the present war by television, Britain's most senior serviceman is being seen by journalists as the cactus among the cowboys: prickly, dry, immovable and utterly immune from the wartime viruses of hyperbole, excitement and premature optimism. Sir David has become something of an anti-celebrity for his regular defence ministry briefings alongside Tom King, the defence secretary.

Reporters find his daily evaluations of the military situations as dry as the desert sand, and they cannot but recall the Falklands campaign, when they were fed their daily diet of sparse fact by Ian Macdonald, a ministry press officer whose funeral voice was often compared to a speak-your-weight machine.

Yesterday, in an interview on BBC television with David Dimbleby, Sir David almost came within Scud range of a joke although it was all teeth and no smile. Dimbleby wondered if he was irked by the obsessive media interest. "I hope we are helping you to get the information you want," Sir David said bleakly, adding with less than total conviction: "We welcome your interest."

Sir David appears at the regular war briefings largely at his own insistence. In the light of Falklands experience, when the task went to MoD press officers, it

was decided that this time pronouncements should come from the lips of ministers. Sir David argued strongly that political briefing should be backed up by professional military assessment.

Those assessments have turned out to be the very quintessence of British stiff lip and caution, from which blatant enthusiasm is thoroughly expunged. Colleagues say that, in private, Sir David is almost painfully quiet and shy, but has a Job-like patience.

Early last month Sir David told members of the Voroshilov military academy in the Soviet Union that he was under no illusions that the use of force against Iraq would be easy or quick, and that he could not discount substantial casualties. He undoubtedly believes that the good guys will win the last reel, but remains resolute in the meantime not to anticipate the script.

## Tighter curbs planned to limit refugees

By RICHARD FORD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to introduce new measures to curb the number of refugees settling in Britain and to act against people who enter the country by making false claims for political asylum.

The Home Office is looking at a series of options aimed at making it harder for people to enter Britain after a huge increase in numbers seeking asylum. They include tougher visa requirements, more thorough checks on asylum applications and bigger fines on airlines carrying passengers without right of entry.

Curbs may also be introduced on the number of people turned down for asylum but who are allowed to remain in Britain on humanitarian grounds, while another option is to speed up the return of people who cannot prove legitimate fear of persecution.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is particularly concerned that the end of restrictions on movement in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could lead to a huge increase in the number of economic migrants. A Russian minister told Mr Baker at a conference on East-West migration in Vienna yesterday that six to seven million workers wanted to leave the Soviet Union to head west.

Mr Baker said: "That is an enormous number for Europe to absorb. I think one has got to look at all the methods and review the methods of immigration concerning refugees and people seeking asylum."

He promised that he would bring forward new recommendations soon.

He said governments could not ignore that in Europe and North America asylum applications had doubled every three years since the beginning of the Eighties and had reached a "staggering" 500,000 a year. "Yet only a very small proportion are found to be fleeing from persecution or in need of other humanitarian attention."

Mr Baker said that there could be no automatic presumption in favour of asylum seekers from eastern Europe. He added that the number of asylum seekers who remained in countries even though their asylum claims had been rejected was a big problem.

Moscow migration, page 9  
Leading article, page 11

## TODAY

Enlightened brigade?



Advanced technology and new thinking have, hopefully, made the calamity of the Light Brigade unrepeatable in modern warfare  
SATURDAY REVIEW

Mr Articulate, he ain't

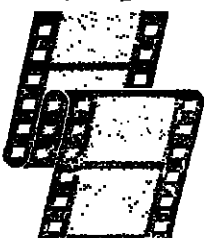
Arnold Schwarzenegger is the Hollywood star whose English resembles that of an immigrant Estonian taxi driver  
SATURDAY REVIEW

The view from Nat Lofthouse

The former Bolton and England centre-forward, who played in many a match against Manchester United, gives his verdict on today's Cup clash  
PAGE 23

NEXT WEEK

Treasure on film, exposed



Star: a Jesuit priest. Location: a cellar. Monday's arts page tells the story of a 'lost' film archive

Where news meets history

The Times continues its unrivalled coverage of the Gulf as 10 correspondents in the Middle East join staff writers around the world to explore and explain the battle

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## INSIDE

### New tests for 14-year-olds

Written tests are to be introduced for pupils aged 14 in all national curriculum subjects. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, announced yesterday. The first national tests in mathematics and science will be in 1992. Page 22

### Judge withdraws

A High Court judge who accused West Midlands police of suppressing a secret report into a police operation in which a girl hostage died has withdrawn the claim. Page 8

### Radicals attacked

Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former Lithuanian prime minister, has attacked the radical nationalist faction of the Sajudis independence movement in the Baltic republic. Page 9

### Cup memories

Nat Lofthouse and Harry Gregg, rivals in the 1958 FA Cup Final, meet again today as Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers lock horns in the Cup. Page 23

### Gap narrows

Britain's visible trade gap narrowed to £844 million in December to bring the deficit to £17.9 billion for 1990, a fall of nearly £6 billion from the record deficit of 1989. Page 29

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## ALLIED BRIEFING

# RAF chief says time is running out for Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE most senior American and British military commanders have summed up the first nine days of the Gulf war with one positive message: as each day has gone by, Iraq's military capability has been steadily weakened.

It may not make dramatic reading from day to day, but President Saddam Hussein must now realise that time is no longer on his side. For as each bombing raid continues to erode his infrastructure, his ammunition depots, his fuel supplies and his logistical lines, Saddam's ability to fight the ground war on his terms will be impaired.

Much more is happening on the ground each night than the military briefings suggest. RAF Tornado GR1s, for example, were engaged in highly successful bombing missions over Iraq on Thursday night and all the aircraft returned safely. One target that blew up in a fireball was a power station and a missile command and control bunker in central Iraq was also destroyed, which will affect the capabilities of Scud ballistic missile crews.

Yesterday it was the turn of the British government's most senior military adviser

to give his views on the way the war has progressed. The assessment made by Sir David Craig, Marshal of the Royal Air Force and chief of the defence staff, was broadly in line with that of his American counterpart, General Colin Powell: the United States and its allies had the staying power to beat the Iraqis. However, Sir David took issue with a statement made by Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, who said that the public would have to prepare itself for some Iraqi victories before the war was over.

He insisted that victory was the wrong word to use. "Victory has a ring of finality in it," Sir David said. "I don't think Iraq will get victories. There will be times when things don't go entirely as we would hope, but I would never characterise this as a victory."

Saddam's decision to keep his air force hidden at first caused surprise and some anxiety among allied commanders. Now that every Iraqi fighter that has ventured into the sky has been either shot down or forced to turn back, there is growing confidence that Iraqi air power

can be checked if not eliminated. Sir David said: "If he has his aircraft for some grand finale, we will be ready for them."

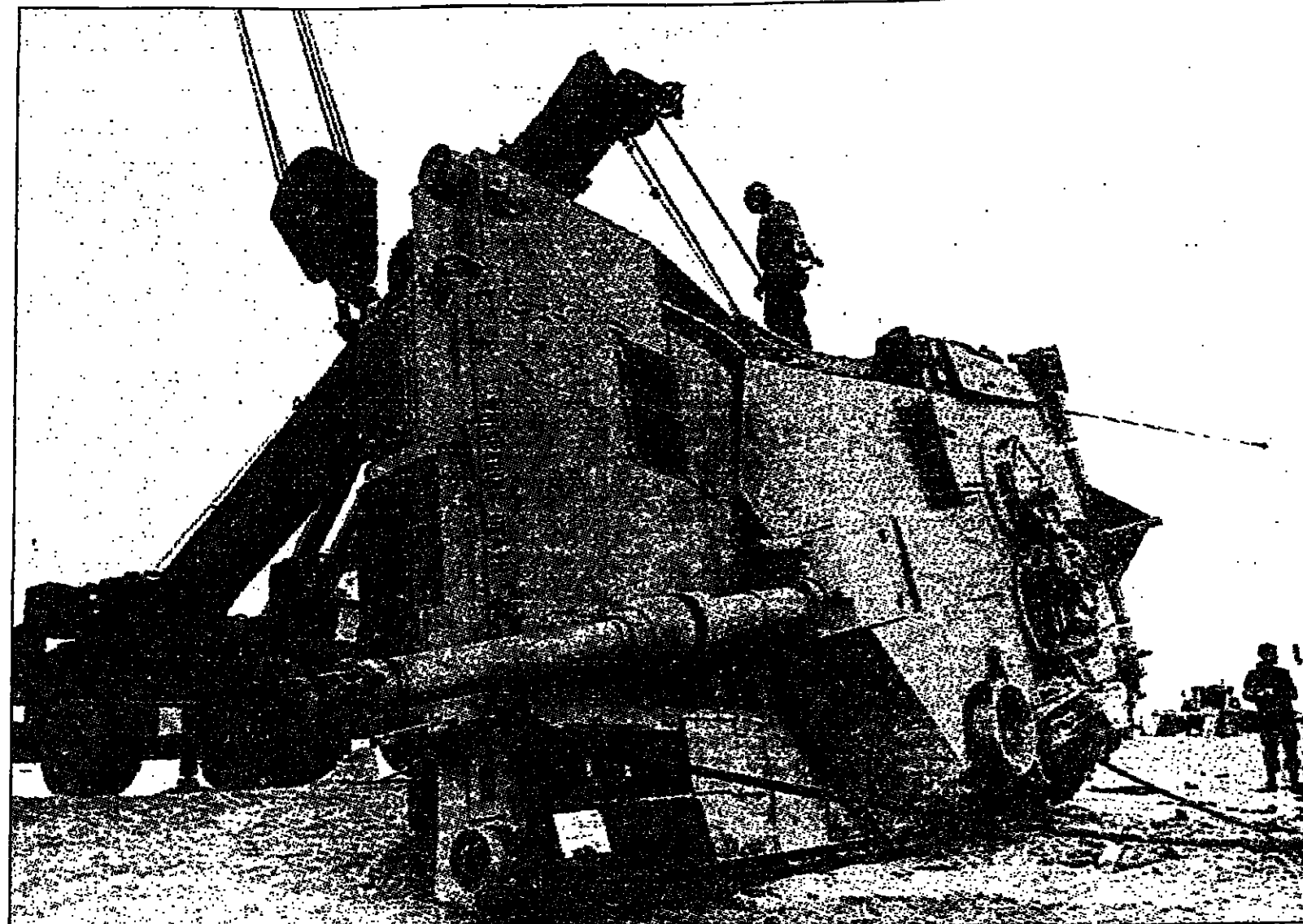
However, he said: "I note the impatience of some who seem to question why it is not all over already. But remember when they invaded Kuwait, Iraq possessed an enormous military machine.

So our counter-offensive promised from the outset not to be an easy or quick push-over. It is not a Falklands, nor a Panama. Equally it must not be a Vietnam, nor a Korea."

Sir David said that the land offensive would not begin until the allied air bombardment had reduced the ratio between the forces, giving the

coalition an "overwhelming superiority", but he concluded: "Where battle has been joined with the enemy, we are coming out well on top. We have still a considerable task ahead. It could be a much shorter one if Saddam Hussein were to come to his senses."

Blows to democracy, page 10



Side walk: a soldier helping to right an American M1A1 tank, nicknamed Whispering Death, which fell from a transporter on the way to the front yesterday

## ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE

## Saudi pilots enjoy top marks from US trainers

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE American officers who train Saudi Arabia's fighter pilots were not surprised by the feat of Captain Ayedh al-Shamrani in shooting down two Iraqi Mirage fighter bombers. The Saudi air crews, say the Americans, are among the finest and most highly-motivated in the world.

Captain al-Shamrani, who has flown F-15 Eagles for seven years, was one of several hundred Saudi pilots to pass through flight school and tactical training with the United States Air Force. Since the

1970s, the USAF has been teaching Saudi pilots the skills of aerial combat at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona and at Langley, Virginia. Since 1983, the pilots have been trained on the F-15, the top-of-the-line interceptor. The small but well-equipped Royal Saudi Air Force has 57 of the aircraft, as well as 40 British Tornados, 70 older Norrbom F-5s as well as five US E-3 early warning and command (AWACS) planes. The Tornado pilots are trained in Europe. "They are highly re-

garded as among the best," a US officer yesterday of the American experience with the RSAF.

"They can handle anything anyone throws at them." The pilots undergo the same tactical drills as American pilots, practising combat against other aircraft, simulating the manoeuvres and performance of MiGs and other Soviet-built aircraft likely to be their adversaries.

English is used in all operations by the Saudi pilots, as the tape of Captain al-Shamrani's jubilant radio exchanges on Thursday made clear. An American Lieutenant-Colonel recently called the elite 13th Saudi squadron "a tightly-run unit with a strong sense of mission, the equipment to handle it and strong individual pride."

The Saudi force has mainly been trained to defend the country against surprise attack, probably aimed at its oil installations. This meant constant patrols across the vast territory of the kingdom. During the Iran-Iraq war they acquired the ability to scramble their interceptors even faster than the USAF F-15s, thanks to the installation of laser ring gyros, the instruments used for navigation. These are ready for flight in 22 seconds, compared with the 2.5 minutes required for the mechanical gyro instruments to get up to speed before take-off.

The close relations between Saudi and US forces have been further fostered by Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, who is himself an air force fighter pilot.

Opposition from the pro-Israel lobby in Congress to further US aircraft sales caused the kingdom to turn to Europe for many of its weapons in the late 1980s, and prompted the purchase of the big Tornado fighter-bombers, an aircraft that Saudi pilots say is not as suitable to their needs as the F-15.

## WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 9

## ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** More than 17,000 allied air missions flown since war began, 9,000 of them on combat missions.

**LOSSES:** Allies say 30 of their airmen have been captured or are missing. Britain has lost six Tornado combat planes out of a total of 24 aircraft. Eight British crew members are reported missing and two others are prisoners of war. 15 American aircraft have been lost.

**SCUD ATTACKS:** In the fifth attack on Israel, Iraq fired seven Scud missiles, killing one and injuring 40. Patriot missiles intercepted most of the Scuds. Three died and 134 were injured in Israel in the first four attacks.

**CLAIMS:** Kuwaiti flag flying over the island of Qaruh after allies seized first Iraqi-occupied territory, three Iraqi soldiers were killed, 51 taken prisoner, two Iraqi ships sunk and two armed Mirage F1s shot down.

Allied soldiers have begun digging in within sight of the Iraqi army. Soviet defence ministry sources said Saddam had top airforce and air defence commanders shot after big losses at the outbreak of the war. France said its Jaguar fighter-bombers, in their second air raid on Iraqi territory, attacked units of Iraq's Republican Guard. Japanese airforce transport planes are ready to fly to Cairo to pick up Asian refugees. The Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* reported that Iraq's parliament had au-

thorized pilots to carry out suicide attacks on US aircraft carriers. Lt-Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere said Iraq's navy was being destroyed piecemeal, while the Iraqi airforce was too frightened to fight. Air Marshal Sir David Craig, head of the British armed forces declined to rule out use of allied chemical weapons.

## IRAQI FORCES

**IRAQI CLAIMS:** Another British airman has been captured after air defences downed his plane over Basra. It has now captured more than 20 allied airmen. Captured allied airmen will no longer be interviewed on television until "an appropriate time for this to resume". It said its air defences had downed 14 more allied aircraft and missiles.

## ALLIED WAR AIMS

**BRITAIN**  
John Major said this week, "We are determined to give our forces every ounce of support to ensure Iraq is defeated and the United Nations Security Council's resolutions are implemented in full. Nothing more and nothing less will do."

**UNITED STATES**  
Announcing the outbreak of hostilities, President Bush said: "Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq. It is the liberation of Kuwait." He added, however, that the US was determined to knock out Saddam's nuclear bomb potential and to destroy his chemical weapons facilities.

## EQUIPMENT

## Army gets the boots in

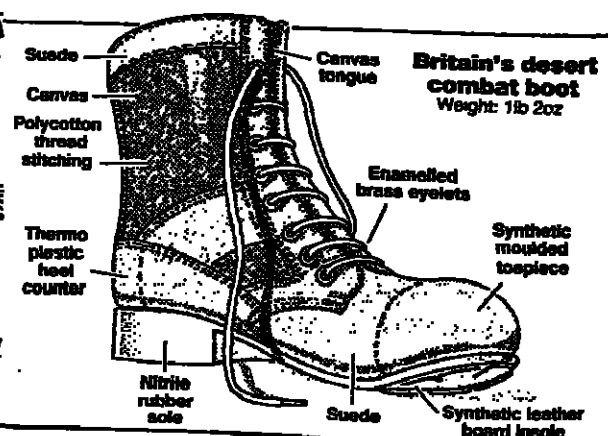
By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND RAY CLANCY

HUNDREDS of women factory workers, many with relatives serving in the Gulf, will be at work today producing the one item of equipment still desperately needed by British ground forces before they launch the final attack — a serviceable desert boot.

The troops have grumbled that, while the military planners have provided hi-tech weaponry, they have failed to recognise that an army does not march on its stomach, but on its boots.

Even the allied commander-in-chief, General Norman Schwarzkopf, whose soldiers have been forced to tour Saudi Arabian shoe shops for suitable, but non-regulation footwear, has complained that for 35 years of military service regulation boots have abused his feet.

American troops in the Gulf arrived wearing Vietnam-era footwear. Heavy and hot, they featured holes to let swamp water out, or in the desert the sand in British soldiers,



suffering from sores and blisters, have been writing home asking their families to buy them better desert boots as the army's existing short desert boots let sand in over the top. The Ministry of Defence has broken all records for designing, approving and ordering new ones, the first batch of which is already on its way. The new Boot, Desert Combat (as it is officially known), almost 1lb lighter than the existing model, is being manufactured round the clock at two factories. It is

9½ins high to stop sand falling in and made to the highest specifications in a combination of sand-coloured suede and canvas. The designers ordered a thermo-plastic heel counter to give added strength, a double stitched tongue which would prevent sand getting in, and a toe strengthener.

The boots should be ready for many British servicemen by the time the ground battle starts. General Schwarzkopf's new American desert boots will not be ready until May.

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## Correspondents in the war zone report on the progress of Operation Desert Storm



Foot soldiers: men from the 1st Squadron of the Royal Transport Corps taking time off from the war at an allied camp in Saudi Arabia yesterday

## Women share life in a combat zone

From PATRICK BISHOP  
WITH THE US MARINES  
IN SAUDI ARABIA

YOU see them everywhere, standing guard duty, seated behind communications, even resignedly doing their share of the worst job imaginable — burning the latrine pits.

In the land battle that most people here are convinced is inevitable, women will be nearer the fighting than ever before in the history of the US military. The massive logistics operation, and the need for large forward supply bases has pushed non-combat marines into the vanguard of the redeployment northwards.

It is a development that the women at the main forward marine logistics base, where they make up 8 per cent of the troops, view with mixed emotions.

"I don't feel women should be up here unless their job calls for it," said Lance Corporal Patricia Perez, who works for the decontamination unit and would be expected to go forward to treat soldiers caught in a chemical attack.

"There's no sense of having a female out here when it's pretty clear that they can't accomplish as much as a man can and can't compete in strength." But Corporal Perez from Rochester, New York, admits that although a man could do her job "if they need me I'll have to go and I want to go".

Among the 100 female marines here, there is an understanding about the symbolic importance of having women so far forward, along with some pride, but it is tempered with natural caution. "I didn't think I was going into the combat zone," said Private Amy Deever, aged 20, from Alabama, as she trudged off to the communications area where she works, her diminutive figure weighed down with pack and flak jacket.

"I didn't think women could go so close. They said so long as we were up here and we were attacked we would have to fight, but otherwise we're not considered a combat unit."

The decision to post women to the front has caused misgivings among some male marines, who complain that, despite their claims to be the equal of their male colleagues, they are given special treatment. They also say that, if fighting breaks out, male marines will be distracted by concern for their female comrades.

Some small compromises are made to gender. At the base the women have their own latrines (marines of both sexes use a less polite term, share "hoohoes" together and have their own hour at the showers. At the mess hall and the workplace their presence seems to be treated with fraternal courtness and affection.

But Corporal Perez agrees that their presence can cause ripples in the macho surface of marine front line life. "It's a big adjustment for the guys. There's a lot of things they have to hold back on, like swearing."

And sex. "When men are living in the desert, they start tingling. They see a female and their heads aren't clear. They want to go into combat with a clear head. Having women around can be a pain in the butt."

Sexual relations between marines when on duty is an offence, and now Operation Desert Storm has started they are on duty 24 hours a day.

Staff Sergeant Jacqueline Bowling, aged 29, from Nice, California, who works in the base maintenance unit, thinks that female marine casualties are almost inevitable. "The day the first woman marine is killed is going to cause problems with public opinion," she said. "I just don't think that the public in general are quite ready to accept it."

(This dispatch is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

### KUWAITI BORDER

## Distant thunder of bombs sends grim message to the troops

From PHILIP JACOBSON  
WITH THE 7TH  
ARMoured BRIGADE

SOMEWHERE out beyond our desert camp, over the edge of an immense horizon, the irregular thump of bombing signals another air attack on the Iraqi defensive lines. These days, nobody here even looks up, unless there is an unusually heavy explosion, guaranteed to raise a cheer among the soldiers finishing off trenches or swishing filthy uniforms around in a plastic basin.

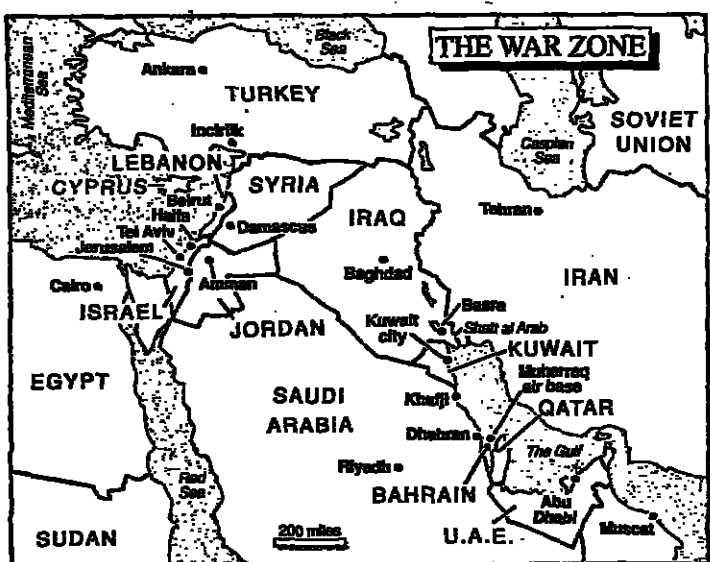
The sun has returned at last, drying out the mudflats that made life a misery under canvas. A small canteen has opened for the sale of "stickies" — sweets, chocolate, cream biscuits — that are consumed in startling quantities: there has been an issue of field showers, an ingenious device incorporating a watertight plastic bag linked to a nozzle that is hung out to heat up during the day. The journalists have even been promised our first change of desert kit for more than a week.

This is the mundane and unvarying stuff of life in the assembly area, waiting while the division to which 7th Armoured Brigade is attached is brought up to full fighting strength. When that is accomplished, battle will not be far off, but for the time being, the days pass in a comparatively agreeable routine of meals, training, relaxation over the games boards and card schools squatted under camouflage netting.

Sometimes it requires an effort to recall that those thumps in the distance mean that men are fighting and dying. With the skies clear again and no discernible threat from Iraqi warplanes, the allies have what amounts to a free run at a wealth of targets in this sector. We hear far more aircraft than we can actually see overhead, but after dark, in the clarity of the desert air, flashes of light flicker across the horizon before the rumbling reaches us.

At this stage, we are told, there is no advantage in using B52s to carpet bomb the length and breadth of the Iraqi defensive lines. That would risk churning up the terrain so badly that the vital landmarks and positional indicators which will guide attackers on the ground to their immediate objectives would simply be obliterated. So the dug-in enemy troops can expect to continue to face endless rocketing and strafing, with cluster bombs spraying out destruction above their positions. If and when formations of Republican Guards begin to move in strength towards the Kuwait-Saudi Arabian border, the B52s would set to work with a vengeance.

Although there is a palpable feeling among the British units designated for the opening ground assault, the better, another week or more of hammering from the air appears to be the allied strategy. If appears to be the allied strategy. If appears to be the allied strategy. If appears to be the allied strategy.



so drastically among Iraqi troops on the front line that special "motivation teams" have been ordered in: deserters filtering across into Saudi Arabia talk of wretched living conditions, failing supply lines, exhausted and apprehensive soldiers who are losing the will to resist.

Some of this could be disinformation, and all of it will be treated with proper caution: cockiness is a dirty word around here, among the fighting units at least. But watching the allied convoys inch past our position for hour after hour in the night, it seems inconceivable that Iraq can hope to match this gigantic logistical operation to ensure that nothing will be lacking — ammunition, fuel, food and spares — on the day.

Like the aerial bombardments, this will continue until divisional commanders are satisfied there is enough equipment to sustain a devastating frontal attack on the Iraqi defences, followed by a slashing breakthrough led by fast-moving armoured columns. That sort of operation consumes vast quantities of supplies, and nobody is going to risk losing momentum for want of a few more convoys.

In our own cookhouse, where a dish known as "babes heads" has recently made the menu — steak and kidney pie from the composition packs — the mood of the soldiers remains very cheerful, despite being subjected to repeated showings of some of the worst films ever made on the unit video. There is one called *Earth Girls Are Easy* that provokes particular hostility, with the most banal lines (of which there are many) being shouted out by the assembled company. Another week of this and reruns of *The Price is Right* would be received with delight.

The nightly entertainment for the press tent is usually supplied by the accomplished double act of Sergeant Andy Mason (unjustly described in an earlier dispatch as gap-toothed) and another sergeant called Ron, both Falklands veterans who have kindly suspended professional hostility to civilians and look after us in many and varied ways. Once the light

## Officer turns war into a fine art

By PHILIP JACOBSON

IN A stretch of desert filled with the deadly machinery of war, a British army officer is perched on a sand dune sketching one of spotted butterflies that have begun to reappear following the heavy rain.

For Major Robin Watt, trained in a regiment of heavy tanks, the Royal Hussars, it is the dream commission: to draw the army at work and in relaxation, to capture the menace of its weaponry and technology alongside indulging his passion for painting wildlife and birds in their natural habitat.

When we came across him, on the perimeter of the camp of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Major Watt, a slight, vaguely unimpressive looking man, was anxious for us to understand that he also has a "proper" job with regimental headquarters. The sketching was semi-official: he is not an accredited war artist, but various British units in Saudi Arabia have jumped at the chance to accommodate him and his portfolio.

For a start, the proceeds from everything that is eventually sold will go to the Army Benevolent Fund for distribution to worthy causes and individuals. His work with the various regiments seems certain to be in demand as ideal souvenirs of the whole operation, from build-up to war.

Completely self-taught, he has previously concentrated on wildlife, with a leaning towards waterfowl. Earlier this year, he exhibited at the Mall Gallery and he is a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists. His last big undertaking involved six months in the Falklands.

Soon, one imagines, Major Watt's work will have to include scenes of death and destruction. The thought does not seem to trouble him. "I think there is a mixture of sensitivity and aggression in most of us," he said.

Value of prayer, page 10  
Leading article, page 11  
Letters, page 11

### SAUDI DESERT

## Warning to media after American TV team goes missing

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE disappearance of American television's most experienced correspondent, Bob Simon of CBS, and his three-man crew, in a vehicle near the Kuwaiti border has increased the obstacles facing journalists trying to cover the war.

A communiqué issued yesterday by the Saudi ministry of defence said the missing crew had been on "an unsponsored and unescorted trip, a direct violation of established US-Saudi media ground rules". It added, in what was interpreted as a further attempt to quash individual journalistic initiative, that "all members of the news media now in Saudi Arabia are reminded that travel into restricted areas without official escort or written permission is strictly prohibited."

Simon, the CBS Middle East correspondent, whose previous assignments have included Vietnam, Lebanon and Northern Ireland, was last heard of at 9am on Monday. He was travelling with Peter Bluff, his producer and CBS London bureau chief, Roberto Albaraz, a cameraman, and Juan Cladera, a technician.

The Saudi communiqué said the men had apparently left their four-wheel-drive vehicle near al-Roqui, a bleak area close to the border with occupied Kuwait that embraces an eerie no man's land between the two opposing armies.

Saudi trackers followed footprints from the vehicle into Kuwait to the nearest Kuwaiti checkpoint manned by Iraqi forces. The ministry claimed: "The trackers were unable to proceed further. Found in the all-terrain vehicle were personal belongings, including \$6,000, Iraqi currency, television equipment and a wristwatch, the face of Saddam Hussein inside the crystal. The investigation by Saudi officials continues... this incident marks the first time any

journalist has been reported missing while in Saudi Arabia."

The fear remained last night that the four men had been captured by an Iraqi hit squad although a spokesman for CBS said Simon was one of the most popular members of the most popular members of the war from Saudi Arabia and it was still hoped "that they are with friendly forces".

While the American and British defence establishments have been trying to stop any open coverage of the war zone by those not submitting to military censors or operating within restricted "combat pools", members of Arab forces, such as those from Egypt and Syria, have proved more co-operative with journalists.

The pool arrangement is resented by many journalists, particularly Americans, who feel events are already being manipulated and bowdlerised. Even before Simon's disappearance, Saudi and American military police were trying to stop reporters approaching the front line.

One British television crew, which tried to get uncensored film of the ground fighting near al-Khafji found themselves in a minefield as they attempted to circumvent Saudi roadblocks.

Some of the 700-strong media covering the war outside the military-controlled pool system have been told that their Saudi visas would be withdrawn if they try to report positions. Others have been instructed by head offices not to upset the officially controlled system.

In the first week of the war, the 300 pool reports transmitted to a press centre in Dhahran met a mixed response. American correspondents claimed that British pool reports contained virtually no criticism of the British forces. (This dispatch is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

## Unspeakable Saddam adds words to armyspeak

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

Just as the desert campaign of 1940-43 gave the English language an evocative new range of slang such as bint (woman), khazzi (latrine) and shufti (look), so the Gulf war has added to the often barely comprehensible military vocabulary.

British troops serving in the bleak northern stretches of the Saudi desert frequently bewilder outsiders by speaking in a slang which encapsulates regimental tradition, Britain's earlier wars in Asia and Africa, as well as a quickly growing list of words and expressions from the latest conflict.

"Maybe it is something to do with life in the desert, throwing people so close together in a strange environment, but it seems to produce a form of lingo that a place like Ulster did not," one British military source said. "What seems certain is that some of these words will last for years."

Since the recent wave of unnerving missile barrages from Iraq, to "scud" someone is now to give him a good beating, while the deadly air attacks

against Baghdad by allied bombers have given an entirely fresh meaning to the word "stealth". The word now means to kill — as in the sentence: "You are bound to get stealthed if you cross that border."

In keeping with the remoteness of the British soldiers from Saudi Arabia's austere Islamic society, none of the slang that is now common among the men of Britain's 4th and 7th armoured brigades has the link with colloquial Arabic which was so common in the army vernacular of General Montgomery's era.

Today, a depressed soldier is an "unhappy teddy", his knife, fork and spoon are known as his "gobbling rods". Sometimes old fashioned Cockney rhyming slang is behind the new meanings, such as a "Rudolf Hess" which is a mess. But to be out of date or, more dramatically, to be dead is to be "Elvis", and the preferred mood of those waiting to fight the Iraqis is "mellow" (calm and cool).

Unavoidably, the lack of beer and women are the two bitterest complaints of the modern Desert Rats, who have proved

more stoical in their acceptance of the deeply resented Saudi Islamic restrictions than have their American counterparts (who in any case are able to make up for lost time by taking rest and recreation leave aboard three chartered ocean cruise liners which are floating somewhere in the Gulf).

With a curious blend of Denis Thatcher's Diary and the dockside bars of Clydeside, the oft dreamt-of ale is variously known to the soldiers as "wets", "scobbs", "sherberts" and "socials". The words for women are not always so printable, but the spot on which the few smuggled pin-ups are placed is known as a "dog board".

A soldier's weapon in the desert is his "bondook", his washing is the "dhobi" and the middle of nowhere is the "ulu". A good trooper never "gonks" (sleeps) when he is on "stag" (sentry duty), even if he feels annoyed at his having been "spammed" or "jiffed" (given a particularly unpleasant task) by one of his superiors.

At all times in the present campaign, with an Iraqi chemical missile attack both feared and predicted, a soldier never forgets his "rubberface" (gas mask). By that time, he will probably be dressed only in his "shreddies" (underpants) and have taken off his "dossies" (desert boots).

Much of the curious private language is reserved for derogatory terms for other branches of the armed services. The Royal Marine Commandos are known as "cabbages", members of the Royal Tank Regiment are "clankie-tankies" and members of the Guards regiments are "wooden tops".

President Saddam Hussein, more often regarded by the soldiers as a cunning mass murderer than a madman, is the subject of endless terms of abuse, one of the mildest of which is "the Bastard of Baghdad".

(This dispatch is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

Leading article, page 11



# Saddam shopped on both sides of Berlin Wall for knowhow



Arens: debris from Scuds contained German parts

THE former East German people's army, along with dozens of West Germany's top companies, helped Iraq develop a hi-tech weapons industry as well as its chemical warfare potential, according to the Berlin-based Berghof Institute for Conflict Studies.

The institute's 20 researchers have unearthed reports showing that Iraq bought knowhow from both sides of the Berlin Wall to develop its nuclear, biological and chemical potential. "The fact that there is a real chemical threat to Israel today is due to German help," Joachim Badelt, one of the authors of the institute's report, said.

The knowhow applies not only to the chemical warheads but, according to Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, to the delivery missiles themselves. He

had told reporters in Jerusalem that debris from the Scuds that had hit Israel contained German components. "It was German technology, identical to that used in the construction of the V-2 flying bombs at the end of the last world war," he said.

Lutz Stavenhagen, the minister in charge of Germany's security services and now also responsible for stamping out illegal arms exports, said this week that there were "black sheep" in German industry, who for years had been finding ways round the law banning weapons sales to the Gulf. After Israel suffered its first casualties from the missiles, he admitted it was German expertise which had enabled Iraq to extend the range of its Russian-built Scuds from 219 miles to 500 miles.

Although all military exports

A new study shows how the former East German army and top West German companies helped the Iraqis build up a formidable arsenal, Ian Murray writes

to the Gulf region were officially banned from the start of the Iran-Iraq war, the US arms control agency has reported that between 1984 and 1988 alone, Germany sold \$675 million (£355 million) worth of weapons to Iraq.

Herr Stavenhagen confirmed that so far nine German companies were being investigated for breaches of the UN boycott on exports to Iraq, while 25 other companies had been cleared and 25 more were likely to be cleared in the next week. However, the institute said that no less than 170 West German companies

had been identified as supplying Iraq, even before the embargo was introduced, with technology that could be converted for military use.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles has claimed that there are 86 German firms out of 207 Western companies worldwide which had contributed to Iraq's atomic, biological or chemical warfare capability.

Six managers of three German companies, alleged to have been involved in providing Iraq with the ability to make chemical weapons, have been in prison

since last autumn awaiting trial for export offences. It has since been confirmed that one of them was on the payroll of the Federal Information Agency while working in Iraq, increasing speculation here that the government knew what was going on.

The three companies, Karl Kolb, its subsidiary Pilot Plant Engineering from Driesch near Frankfurt, and Water Engineering Trading of Hamburg, are between them known to have set up a plant at Samarra. The factory was supposed to be for manufacturing pesticides but intelligence reports say it was used for making nerve gas.

According to the Berghof institute, the Iraqi army was taught how to wage chemical warfare by specialists of the former East German army, which built a special training camp for the

purpose near Baghdad, based on one of its installations at Storkow. The report said that by 1987, German assistance had equipped Iraq with chemical artillery shells, missiles and rocket launchers as well as canisters for use from helicopters.

Iraq has a fleet of German-built BK-117 helicopters, made by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB), which the company insists were supplied solely for transport purposes. Peace activists, who reported the company to police in the autumn, insist that the helicopters were adapted for chemical warfare by Swiss and Austrian companies.

The report by the institute names MBB, along with such household names as Siemens and AEG, as among about 30 companies which have helped Iraq.

## ISRAEL

### Europe rallies to the cause with cash and diplomacy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM AND PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

ISRAEL has received a flush of diplomatic and economic support from European capitals in response to its restraint in the face of repeated Iraqi efforts to draw it into the war.

Germany, which is sending a further DM1.7 billion (£590 million) in aid to Middle East countries suffering from the conflict, including Israel, has called for the European Community to pay Israel up to \$210 million (£111 million) for war damage. The Twelve have resumed full economic ties with Israel, broken a year ago in protest at the treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories. France has also sent an envoy to Tel Aviv to express "sympathy and solidarity". All three moves came just hours before the latest Iraqi attack.

The Israeli foreign ministry welcomed the European Commission's decision as "an expression of the community's appreciation of, and understanding for, Israel's position and in view of Iraq's aggression against her".

The United States yesterday

sent more Patriot anti-missile batteries to Israel, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, who yesterday ended a two-day goodwill visit, reportedly also offered Patriots, as the Israeli press gave a gloomy assessment of American military achievements so far — hinting that Israel might have to throw its weight into the battle.

Despite the new closeness in relations between Jerusalem and Washington, significant American-Israeli differences emerged yesterday over the course of the war and the threat to Israel.

Israeli officials, contradicting American statements, said that Iraq was able to equip its Scud missiles with chemical warheads. Military commentators in the Israeli press, apparently reflecting army thinking, said that America was too slow and cumbersome in dealing with Iraq, and that bombing had done little except make holes in the desert.

Harish Goodman, a defence expert and editor of the *Jerusalem Report*, said that President Saddam Hussein had played his cards well, knowing in advance what the allied strategy would be. His air force was safe in hardened shelters, he had used dummies to great effect, his missile force was intact, together with his command and control structure, and Saddam was secure in his bunker.

By contrast, Israel had watched Saddam for two decades and had invested in weapons designed to hit Iraqi targets "with pinpoint accuracy and devastating efficiency", Mr Goodman said. "The time has come to use them... we can cause heavy damage which will reduce the risk to Israel."

Benjamin Netanyahu, the deputy foreign minister, said that Israel was continuing its policy of restraint, and would calculate its response to missile attacks coolly and calmly. He denied a report in *The Times* that he had been more vociferous than other Israeli leaders in calling for retaliation, and saying that Israel would respond at a time and in a manner of its own choosing. Remarks attributed to him that Israel could not endure a "daily lottery" of bombings and that restraint was "un-Israeli" were misquotations, he said. "Israel has always considered its retaliation for attacks coolly. Our present policy is being carefully co-ordinated by senior ministers."

(Dispatches from Jerusalem contain only material passed by the Israeli military censor)

## PALESTINIANS

### Outlook becomes bleaker

BY RICHARD OWEN

ALTHOUGH Iraq and the American-led alliance are digging in for a long war, Israelis and Palestinians are looking ahead to a postwar settlement, with Palestinians worried that Israel is in a stronger position than ever while their own leadership is in disarray.

Palestinians in the occupied territories said it might be necessary to evolve a leadership in the West Bank and Gaza with defined aims, to negotiate with Israel and the allies. Western leaders have said Palestinian grievances must be addressed with urgency.

Sources said that a locally based Palestinian leadership should not consist of "name, non-Palestine Liberation Organisation figureheads" subservient to Israel. It would be a strongly nationalist leadership deriving its authority from the PLO.

But the PLO leadership in exile in Tunis has been weakened, not only by disputes over the wisdom of backing President Saddam Hussein, but also by the murder on the eve of war of Abu Iyad, second-in-command to Yasser Arafat.

Some Palestinians, notably from Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organisation, say they are willing to die for Saddam as "martyrs". Their hope is that the "Arab masses" will revolt in countries supporting the alliance, such as Syria and Egypt.

But others are dejected, and see little prospect of postwar "linkage". They argue that the Palestinian leadership, not for the first time, has played its cards badly. Some Palestinian moderates predict a wave of Muslim fundamentalism throughout the Middle East if Saddam is defeated. "We are in the initial stages of a drawn-out war which is ever expanding," said Hanna Siniora, editor of the newspaper *al-Fajr*. "Today Israel, tomorrow Jordan or Syria, eventually the whole Arab world."

● **Imam killed:** There were fears yesterday that Palestinian disturbances might break out after the murder of the Muslim religious leader in the town of Jaffa, which adjoins Tel Aviv. But Israeli police said the murder of Imam Youssef al-Shur and his brother Chamis was the result of a local feud without political significance.



Show of unity: Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, left, at a memorial exhibition in Jerusalem to the Nazi holocaust. He was in Israel to show solidarity with the Israeli people and to pledge \$166 million (£85 million) in emergency humanitarian aid

## ARAB WORLD

### Popular support for Iraq mounts

FROM PENNY GIBBINS IN TUNIS

A VITRIOLIC pro-Saddam mass movement is growing throughout North Africa. Demonstrations in support of Iraq are now daily events, and although they have generally been kept under control, this has been achieved only by heavy policing and warnings of serious reprisals if violence does break out.

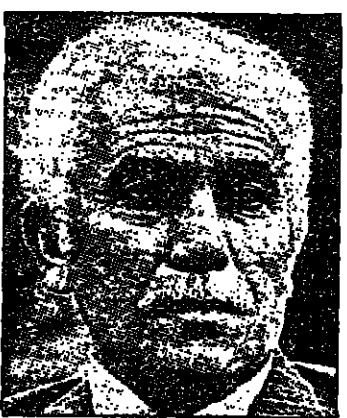
Initial reaction to the allied assault on Iraq was subdued. Nobody could understand why Iraq had not used its missiles and people reluctantly believed Western reports that President Saddam Hussein's defences had been destroyed.

When Iraq started retaliating, people came out into the streets in support of Saddam. In North Africa the news that Iraq had hit Israel was greeted with jubilation and Saddam's status as a hero was

confirmed: he was the only Arab leader since 1948 to have successfully struck the Arabs' enemy at its heart.

He is now being lauded with unreserved reports of military victories. Foreign agency reports are reworded to give the impression that Iraq is winning and government and opposition newspapers run vitriolic editorials attacking the West. Among the reports that have not so far been available to the West are: the shooting dead of about 100 mutinous Saudi Arabian soldiers by American troops; the defection of five Saudi pilots to Jordan; and the burning of about 1,500 British soldiers in the magic Iraqi ditch.

In Algeria, Western observers say, at least six demonstrations took place daily, although only the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has commanded really large numbers — up to 300,000 people last week. For the FIS, which stands a good chance of forming the next Algerian government, the war has provided another opportunity to show its power. Some fundamentalists have been setting up for pro-Iraqi volunteers, but President Chadli Benjedid has said: "The government can train a million men to fight if it decides there is a need to do so." Despite this, some Islamists said they would be starting up the camps today — and Western observers say such training could give the FIS a small army and a means of taking power by force.



Chadli: ruled out the need for pro-Iraq training camps

## EASTERN EUROPE

### Foreign Legion pay lures the recruits

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE spirit of *Beau Geste*, the smart white kepi, and the televised roar and rattle of desert war is persuading hundreds of young East Europeans to sign up for the Foreign Legion.

French embassies in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest are being peppered with requests. Legion leaflets, badly translated into Polish, display a drawing of a legionnaire drummer, and appeal to 18-to-40 year olds to apply to the main recruiting centre in Aubagne, near Marseilles.

The flood of recruits began soon after the invasion of Kuwait. Well over one quarter of the 1990 legion intake of 1,400 men were from Poland, East Germany and Hungary. This year, the East European contingent is set to be much higher, and many applicants are being turned away.

"At least a third of our candidates are from Eastern Europe," said Colonel Tomatis, of the Aubagne garrison, quoted in the Polish youth daily *Sztandar Młodych*. "But there are no Russians. On the basis of an agreement signed by France in 1945, the legion is not allowed to recruit Russians."

For the first year of service, a legionnaire is paid about \$300 (£158) a month, rising to \$560 in the second year. War service brings further financial benefits. These modest rates compare well with Polish military salaries.

The typical East European recruit is aged around 23, and has completed national service with

one of the Warsaw Pact armies. It is precisely this generation that is finding itself without work — there are around 1.2 million unemployed people in Poland, and rates are rising fast in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Television reports of the preparation for combat in the Gulf have given these men an alternative to the dull or black-market dealing.

After five years of service the legionnaires can apply for French citizenship, an alluring prospect for East Europeans.

A Polish recruit, quoted by *Sztandar Młodych* and named only as Krzysztof, said: "I was made redundant by my company, and anyway only earning about \$50 a month. I was then supposed to do my two years' army service — and would have been unemployed after that too, for sure. So I paid for a package tour to Paris, and as soon as I crossed the border went to a recruiting station. After the legion, I will try to settle in France as a civilian."

The legion is also providing a useful haven for sacked security police. A hoax advertisement in a Berlin newspaper, "Armed service in the Middle East, applications welcome", drew a huge response from redundant East German army officers and secret police agents.

Polish secret police, though, have shown a marked preference for South Africa, where Boss, the state security service, has been offering generous employment terms for skilled agents.

## Legal move by Tokyo on dispatch of planes

Tokyo — The Japanese government has laid the legal foundation for the planned dispatch of self-defence forces aircraft to the Middle East to evacuate refugees. If the five C130 transport planes are sent, this will be the first overseas mission by the Japanese military since the second world war (Joanna Pitman writes).

In a key speech at the opening of the regular session of the Diet yesterday, Toshiaki Kaifu, the prime minister, sidestepped opposition objections by moving quickly through inflammatory issues such as Japan's promise to provide \$9 billion (£4.6 billion) as support for the multinational forces and the proposal to dispatch the aircraft.

Meanwhile, officials have raised doubts about whether their crews are sufficiently experienced to fly in the region. Sandstorms, terrorists, heat and unfamiliar terrain have all been cited as reasons. Pilots have also been reported as being anxious about language problems.

However, Japan Airlines and All-Nippon Airways are planning tomorrow to fly four planes to Egypt to take more than 1,000 Vietnamese evacuees from Cairo to Ho Chi Minh City.

## Radicals warned

Tehran — President Rafsanjani, criticising radicals calling for Iran to back Iraq in the war against American-led forces, said helping Baghdad's effort to keep Kuwait would be suicide for the country. In his strongest defence of Iran's neutrality in the conflict, President Rafsanjani told worshippers at a mass prayer meeting here that both sides were unjust and unworthy of Iranian support.

## Opinion hardens

Support for allied forces in the Gulf has risen in several key EC countries despite anti-war demonstrations, according to opinion polls. More than 70 per cent of the French now approve military action, and a national opinion poll in Germany showed that 80 per cent backed armed intervention against Iraq. An opinion poll on the eve of war said 65 per cent of the Dutch favoured action, and opinion in Italy seems now to be shifting that way.

## Divers deployed

Sydney — Australia yesterday increased its commitment to the Gulf war, just days after Bob Hawke, the prime minister, said he would not send any more forces. Twenty-three divers will leave tomorrow to carry out mine clearance duties on Australian and other allied warships. John Hewson, the opposition Liberal leader, said the deployment upgraded Australian involvement and raised questions over Mr Hawke's recent assurances.

## Major denounced

Nicosia — Iraq has called John Major an "ally of the devils" who would, with other allies, regret participating in the war against it. Baghdad radio, monitored by the BBC, said that Mr Major had advised his politicians to accept the "bad news of his losses". It added that he "will find nobody to advise him (how) to receive the bad news with self-control, as all of them (members of Parliament) will be busy receiving the coffins of their dead". (Reuter)

## China 'unmoved'

Peking — China remains unmoved by President Gorbachev's letter to its leaders, urging "more active" involvement in persuading Iraq to leave Kuwait, according to diplomats here. Sources said Li Peng, the prime minister, replied that the Chinese and Soviet positions on the war were identical. He made no promise of joint action. China appears to believe there will not be unrest among Muslims in the regions of Xinjiang and Yunnan.

## CORRECTION

A caption on page five of today's *Saturday Review* should refer to Tornado pilots, not Jaguar pilots.

## NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

### Big business cashes in on the desert conflict

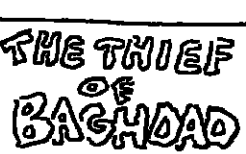
Is there such a thing as a good Iraqi? Arab Americans are worried that in the rush to cash in on the war, Hollywood is about to embark on a wave of Iraqi-bashing that could incite hysteria. "Arabs are being dehumanised," said Casey Kasem, a member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The source of his alarm is a scramble by several film studios to produce Desert Storm movies, in some cases modifying existing projects to cast the Iraqis as the villains. In one, originally called *Shield of Honour* and now renamed *Desert Storm*, the bad guys in a plot to wipe out Israel were Libyans. Now they are Iraqis. Cannon Pictures is working on a film called *Human Shield*. In this, a young American colonel of the Oliver North type tries to stop an Iraqi colonel from killing an old Kurdish woman and child. The Iraqi takes revenge by

taking the American's brother and holding him hostage. In yet another, originally titled *Navy Seals* and now called *Desert Shield*, a commando played by Rob Lowe wastes no time to a country that was originally an "unidentified" Middle Eastern nation. Now, of course, it is Iraq. "We are waiting for history to give us the final act," said Menahem Golan, the producer. The main Hollywood studios are keeping their distance from the conflict, saying the real war is too serious for entertainment, but Arab organisations fear a flood could come once victory appears certain. This could ensnare the Iraqi as the bogymen for years to come. Some studios, however, seem anxious to avoid this. CBS television is, for example, planning to deal with Arab-bashing next month on *WIOU*, a series about the daily life of a television news team. In the episode, the team reports on a

fictional 10th cousin of Saddam Hussein, whose American shop is burnt down by an angry crowd.

On the music front, the war has sparked a spate of martial pop songs, most of them solemn and none sharing the jingoistic touch of such world war two titles as *I'm going to find a fellow who is yellow and beat him red, white and blue*. Top with the radio stations this week is Randy Newman's *Lines in the Sand*, recorded on January 13.

Films and music are not the only business benefitting from the Gulf. As well as the obvious industries such as the missile makers, and psychiatrists, a whole range of enterprises are reporting a windfall. Top among them is the pizza industry. Domino's, the home-delivery chain, says sales have leaped by up to 40 per cent as families forego the kitchen to maximise their viewing time. The



THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD  
It's not exactly the Tyrone Power version



GED.  
pizza shops near the White House say they detected the onset of Desert Storm when they received a rush of orders on January 16. Department stores and hair-

dressers everywhere are reporting an unusual demand for manicures and hairstyles from women seeking to take their thoughts off the Gulf. The makers of atlases, globes and short-wave radios are also having a field day.

Telecommunications companies are reporting a surge in demand for their video-conferencing services. This stems from the sudden fear of flying afflicting many US businessmen. A number of companies, including Burger King, the fast food chain, have banned all air travel by their executives in case of terrorism.

Belly dancing has been one of the first and lesser known casualties of the conflict. In New York, practitioners say the public is shunning their performances, while at the Nile, Manhattan's best known Middle Eastern restaurant, tables are empty.

هكذا من لا يملك



## EC CONTRIBUTION

## Clark accuses EC partners of running for their cellars

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DEFENCE minister yesterday accused Britain's European partners of "running for their cellars" rather than fighting in the Gulf war.

In remarks that will embarrass the government, Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, also spoke of the need to smash Saddam Hussein's war machine and appeared ready to go beyond the terms of United Nations resolutions.

His attack, tantamount to a charge of cowardice against the Europeans, led to Labour calls last night for him to be disciplined. The calls upset the government's efforts to avoid a public row over the European response to the war, and specific commitments about war aims that might be outside the UN resolutions.

John Major, the prime minister, this week sidestepped questions over whether Saddam Hussein's destruction was a legitimate war aim. Last weekend, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said: "It is not our objective, it has never been the objective of the United Nations or the coalition, or the United States, or Britain, to say who should govern Iraq."

Interviewed on *Strangers' Gallery* for BBC South and West local radio stations, Mr Clark was asked whether he agreed that President Saddam's war machine should be totally smashed. He replied: "Yes, I do."

He said that Saddam was reckless with the Scud attacks on Tel Aviv, and his treatment of prisoners of war had been monstrous. "Yes, there should be retribution for this."

Asked whether this would be contravening the UN resolutions, he said: "I do not think so. There has been a lot of legal argument about the meaning of the UN resolutions."

It was put to him that if the Iraqis were withdrawing and the allies pursued them into Iraq, that might breach the resolutions. Mr Clark said: "The terms of the resolution allow us to make Kuwait safe. It is not simply restoring the original boundaries of Ku-

wait. It is open to interpretation." He added: "Common sense dictates that we should clip Saddam Hussein's wings. But the UN is the final authority if they disapprove of our actions they could pass another resolution."

Asked what Britain's European allies would think about going beyond the terms of the UN resolutions, Mr Clark said: "As they are not involved and have not committed a single soldier to the war, I do not think their feelings are of very great importance."

He went on: "One of the arguments of those plugging the Euro-unification argument was that we were going to move into a common foreign policy, military policy and financial policy. But at the first major test they all ran for their cellars."

The French have committed 13,500 troops and substantial armaments to the Gulf. Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark are also contributing to the multinational force.

Mr Clark, a military historian, is one of the more outspoken members of the government. He was undoubtedly giving public expression to views held privately by many Conservative MPs and the disappointment of ministers at the scale of the EC's contribution to the war effort.



Airborne tribute: an RAF Tornado flies over the funeral ceremony yesterday of one of the first victims of the Gulf crisis. The death of Flight Lieutenant Kieran Duffy was part of the price of freedom, mourners at St John's church, Hagley, Stourbridge, were told. Fit Lt Duffy, aged 24, of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, who died when his Tornado crashed in Saudi Arabia just before war began, was buried at Hagley, where his parents were publicans. The Rev Alan Brooksbank told mourners: "This struggle is about freedom and oppression, and about the horrors perpetrated by Saddam Hussein."

## DEPORTATIONS

## Palestinian on expulsion list allowed to stay

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office yesterday dropped plans to deport one of the seven Palestinians facing expulsion from Britain as a risk to national security, after urgent protests were made about his treatment.

Jad Kabbani, a naturalised American, is a wealthy London businessman involved in international insurance. He is reported to have been taken from his business in handcuffs last week and put in prison.

He said in a statement last night that he was grateful that the Home Office acknowledged that he was not a threat to national security.

He was freed before his case had been heard by a Home Office advisory panel. He is the first of 172 Middle Eastern people ordered out of Britain since last autumn to be released. Two more Iraqis were deported yesterday.

His case is one of several which brought protests and raised considerable doubts about the accuracy of the list of deportees. Yesterday, Peter Lloyd, a Home Office minister, told MPs that decisions on possible deportations were taken "in the light of the threat of terrorist activities against the United Kingdom."

Fresh representations are being made on behalf of a noted Arab writer and a computer sales manager who has lived in Britain for 21 years.

Yesterday, another two of the seven Palestinians, a man and wife, lost an attempt in the High Court to obtain a writ of habeas corpus and a judicial review of deportation

orders. Eugene Cotran, counsel for the man, identified only by an initial, said that he should be treated as a refugee and not expelled simply because his uncle is a known terrorist. The man had had no contact with his relative and hated his activities.

The Home Office knew of the relationship, and the Palestinian, who has lived in Britain for 15 years, was given permanent leave to stay in Britain with his wife, now pregnant, several years ago. The couple fear they are to be deported to Jordan, where the wife was told during a visit in 1985 that her husband would be killed if he returned. Both were lawfully in Britain, their counsel said.

● Iraqi nationals detained as potential threats to security during the Gulf war are to be held in two specially prepared wings of a top security prison until they can be deported, it was disclosed yesterday (Peter Davenport writes).

About 50 men now held at Pentonville prison in north London are to be transferred to the Full Sutton prison near York on Monday. It has 20ft anti-scaling walls, barbed wire, advanced security systems and anti-helicopter devices.

Full Sutton now holds 430 prisoners from category A to category C and has 300 staff. The detainees, mostly Iraqi but with a handful of Palestinians, will be housed in E and F wings, separate from the main sections of the prison. Each wing has about 100 individual cells which have not yet been used.

The prison authorities are going to elaborate lengths to ensure their comfort. A special room has been set aside for religious observance, a local imam will make visits and the kitchens will provide any special dietary needs, such as meals of halal meat.

The detainees, all men aged over 21, will be allowed daily visits, to wear their own clothes and consultations with legal advisers. They will be given breakfast each day at 8am and allowed between six and seven hours out of their cells, watching television, reading or using a wide range of sports facilities.

## Gulf Trust 'must have campaign'

The Gulf Trust, established this week by the defence ministry, should benefit from an active fund-raising campaign rather than rely on public generosity services, charities have urged.

Several hundred servicemen's wives and mothers have volunteered to operate an army computer centre at Bulford camp on Salisbury Plain to process an expected flood of credit card donations.

Firm donations to the trust had reached a further £200,000 by yesterday.

## Royal support

The Prince of Wales is to visit Pearson's Engineering and Vickers Defence Systems, companies in the Northeast making arms and equipment used in the war. On Wednesday the Queen goes to RAF Marham in Norfolk to meet the families of aircrew and ground staff.

## Flights home

Spare seats on military planes out of the eastern province of Saudi Arabia will be available a normal commercial rates to British citizens wishing to leave, the foreign office announced yesterday. About 6,000 British citizens live in Saudi Arabia.

## PoW guards

Scottish soldiers were yesterday preparing for Gulf duty guarding Iraqi prisoners of war. The 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers, based at Oakington, Cambridgeshire, will send 500 men, including two pipers, to Saudi Arabia this weekend.

## More 'blueys'

A further 3 million services free airletters - known as blueys - are being distributed to post offices by the defence ministry after complaints that some post offices had run out. One million of the 6 million issued have been used.

## Raid on MP

Police were yesterday investigating a raid on the Tottenham constituency office of Bernie Grant, the anti-war Labour MP, in which a computer, television and fax machine stolen and racist and Gulf war messages were left.

## PM's visit

John Major, the prime minister, visited his Huntingdon constituency yesterday to tour Munsters, a factory making parts for RAF fighter jets.

## AIRLINES AND TOURISM

## Flights and jobs cut as bookings fall off

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH airlines are cutting jobs and services and introducing stringent savings to cope with drastically reduced passenger demand brought about by the recession and the war in the Gulf.

Air Europe is making 150 mainly administrative staff redundant, while British Midland has shed 89 workers. From Monday, British Air-

ways is cancelling some of its services as part of a programme to cut spending until traffic levels pick up. The airline has also halted overtime and invited its 52,000 staff to apply for unpaid leave.

Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways deputy chairman and chief executive, has announced the cancellation of advertising and sales promotion schemes totalling £4 million, ordered a freeze on recruitment and a ban on agency staff. The cancellations, reflecting a 13 per cent drop in passenger numbers in the first full week since the war began, will run until March 17.

Rod Lynch, Air Europe's managing director, said the war had halted charter flights to the Far East, and fuel prices had gone up. He added that some routes had experienced a 50 per cent drop in bookings.

British Airways, who currently offer the cheapest return fare from London to New York at £199, are suspending a daily flight to New York from Mondays until March 17, as well as reducing services to Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Miami.

TWA has reduced its transatlantic flights by a half, and is operating a single daily flight to New York, but Virgin Atlantic says that its passenger numbers are actually up by 2 per cent. Stephen Heckescher, director of public affairs for Pan Am, said that Pan Am had experienced a 10 per cent decrease in bookings and was cutting flight routes.

## MUSLIMS IN BRITAIN

## Community strives for unity

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Muslims are striving to find a united voice amid mounting anger and frustration. A plethora of bodies, each claiming to speak for the Muslim community, has attacked the allied war effort and called for peace in the Gulf.

The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom, which includes leading Jews, Christians and Muslims, urged the "safeguarding of the Holy Places in the area". In a statement issued yesterday, the network condemned attacks on places of worship or attempts to stir up discord between British people of different faiths.

Most Muslims are anxious to distance themselves from any suggestion that they support Saddam Hussein or are calling for a holy war. Last night, however, signs emerged of deepening division within the community: some Muslims reported fights in mosques between Saudi Muslims and Muslims who oppose Saudi support for the allies.

One of the oldest bodies, the Union of Muslim Organisation (UMO), will meet next week in Luton to discuss the Gulf. Dr Syed Aziz Pasha, general secretary, said: "We are opposed to the war and to this destruction of a Muslim country, which is totally unnecessary and uncalled for."

Sher Azam, of the Bradford Council for Mosques, said: "Some people work on the strategy that if you are not on their side, you must be on the opposite side. The Muslim community have very clearly stated that they are against the

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## MEDIA 'WAR'

## BBC claims victory in ratings battle

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS watched nearly four and a half more hours of television than normal in the first week of the Gulf war, turning in record numbers to the BBC for its extended Gulf news programmes.

The average viewer is watching for 28 hours and 26 minutes a week, compared with 24 hours a week throughout 1990, according to figures released by BARB yesterday.

The BBC, which has received over 2,000 complaints and comments about saturation war coverage, achieved record audience for the *Nine O'Clock News* and *Newsnight*, with more detailed ratings figures released next week.

The BBC also claimed that its news bulletins made up nine of the top ten Gulf news programmes, with *ITN's News At Ten* in joint ninth place. The *Nine*

*O'Clock News* attracted its biggest audience for more than two years on the January 15 deadline, when 12.7 million people tuned in. *Newsnight* on January 20 achieved the highest single audience on BBC2 during last week, with 4.89 million people tuning in. The ratings were *Newsnight's* highest since the Falklands conflict.

However, Glyn Mathias, assistant editor of ITN, said ITN's 8pm Gulf bulletins, which were not included in the BARB figures because they are less than 20 minutes long, will be "more than a match for the nine o'clock on BBC" when more detailed ratings figures are released next week. He said ITN expects to be ahead of the BBC with its through-the-night coverage. Three of ITN's news programmes made the ITV top 30.

Television executives

said the ratings figures justified extended news coverage of the war.

John Birt, BBC deputy director-general, said: "I don't myself yet detect any war weariness. Plainly some people think we have provided too much news and they have complained," he said on BBC *Breakfast News* yesterday. But he said there were plenty more who appreciated more comprehensive analysis of the war and he predicted increasing viewing figures.

Mr Mathias said most calls to ITN had been from viewers anxious to talk about issues raised by the coverage. Mr Birt said that the BBC was constantly evaluating the amount of reporting and analysis, which on BBC1 yesterday amounted to nine and a quarter hours. Distressing images would not be shown by the BBC but Mr Birt said coverage must

capture the awful truth of the conflict. "We are sensitive to the mood of our audience, which is nervous and sombre."

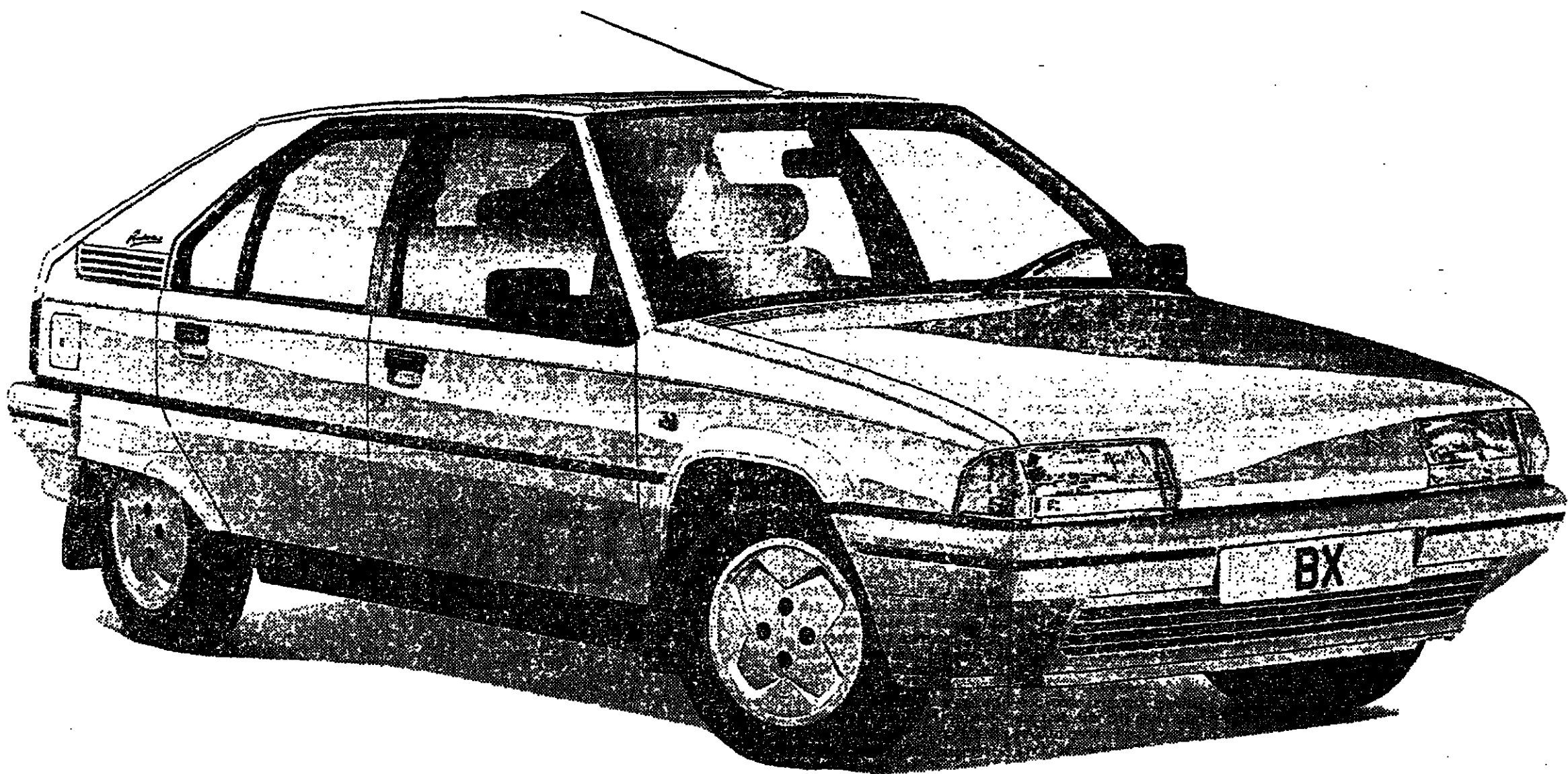
The BBC issued additional war reporting guidelines yesterday. It will not announce losses of aircraft until next-of-kin have been told, unless the information has already been reported prominently in the media. It will also withhold reports on lost aircraft if publicity might jeopardise a rescue attempt.

The word "casualties" is only to be used if the BBC is uncertain whether or not there have been any deaths; otherwise announcements will say "dead and injured".

□ The BBC World Service is extending its broadcasting hours in four more languages, Turkish, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali, as a result of the war. Last week its Arabic output was increased.



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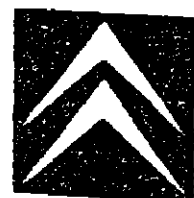
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## Tighter safety code for ferries may bring big fare rises

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FERRY passengers face the prospect of substantial fare increases to help to finance a £200 million maritime safety improvement programme unveiled by the transport department yesterday.

Transport officials are pressing for the new safety recommendations to be implemented by May 1993, less than two months before the scheduled opening of the Channel tunnel, when ferry companies expect to lose a large portion of their market to Eurotunnel.

The safety recommendations, which stem from the investigation into the Zeebrugge disaster in 1987 in which 189 people died, seek to

apply the recently revised safety standards for new vessels to roll-on roll-off ferries built before April 1990.

The revised standards make it incumbent on ferry companies to equip all new vessels with side sponsons, additional bulkheads, buoyancy tanks, or watertight decks, to improve safety and stability in the event of collision damage and flooding.

According to transport department estimates, there are some 60 British-owned vessels and a similar number of foreign-owned vessels using British ports, which would be affected by the safety recommendations. Transport officials estimate that the bill for

modifying all British and foreign-owned vessels would be over £200 million. That figure excludes the cost of harbour alterations needed to berth the modified ferries.

The estimates indicate that British ferry companies engaged in international voyages would have to spend up to £60 million to meet the standards, with a further £20 million a year in additional running costs.

Those companies operating in the UK domestic market would face a bill of up to £25 million, with a further £2 million a year in additional running costs. The cost of modifying British ports alone is thought to be about £50 million.

The recommendations for bringing existing ferry safety standards into line with the standards for new vessels have already been submitted to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the London-based United Nations agency responsible for maritime safety, with a request from the government for "urgent consideration and application".

Transport officials are eager to win IMO approval for the safety changes, and it is understood that most countries operating ferry services to Britain are sympathetic to the proposal. However, the government is prepared to take unilateral action if agreement is not forthcoming, transport officials said.

Responding to the transport department's initiative, Jim Hannan, the director of communications for the Sealink Senna Line, said: "This is a preliminary document which has been hurriedly put together."

"The ferry industry will have to speak with one voice on this issue, and we will have to wait and see how the IMO decides to handle it."

## Crash train brakes in working order

ACCIDENT investigators have ruled out brake failure as the cause of the Cannon Street rail crash in which two people died and more than 200 people were injured. British Rail said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes).

An interim British Rail enquiry found that both the ordinary and emergency brakes were in full working order immediately before the crowded ten-carriage commuter train from Sevenoaks, Kent, ploughed into buffers at the London station.

British Rail's preliminary report, based on "exhaustive tests" of both braking systems, will now be sent to the Railway Inspectorate, which is to hold its own independent public hearing into the cause of the crash.

Immediately after the accident, the train driver is understood to have told accident investigators that he

applied the brakes without success, and that he did not have sufficient time to apply the emergency brakes.

If the conclusions of British Rail's internal investigation are endorsed by the inspectorate, however, the independent enquiry can be expected to consider whether human error was the primary cause of the crash, while also examining whether the age of the rolling stock contributed to the high number of injuries.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the rail, maritime and transport union, said he would have to assess the technical data before deciding whether the accident was caused by mechanical or human error. "Establishing the cause of the accident is obviously essential. But equally important is discovering why so many passengers were injured in a relatively low-speed collision."

## Thatcher may be summonsed

The father of one of the Lockerbie disaster victims will try to call Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister, to give evidence at the enquiry being held in Dumfries.

Jim Swire, spokesman for relatives of the UK victims, said he wanted to establish who was responsible for the state of British aviation security at the time of the bombing. A solicitor was asked last night to prepare a citation, which would be considered by Mrs Thatcher this weekend. As an MP, however, she can be granted exemption from appearing in a civil court.

## Court contempt

A High Court judge yesterday decided not to jail Nigel Watts, a former property developer who was a co-defendant in Lord Aldington's successful 1989 libel action, for contempt of court. Mr Justice Macpherson said there had been a clear case of contempt in a letter from Mr Watts to directors of the Sun Alliance insurance company in which he claimed that Lord Aldington had committed perjury.

## Twins die in fire

Two-year-old twins Dane and Cherraine Gill died yesterday when fire swept their home in Cowper Court, Stockton, Cleveland, after an explosion. Brian Gill, aged 22, and his wife, Michelle, aged 21, who jumped 15ft from a bedroom window, tried unsuccessfully to rescue their children, whose bodies were recovered by firemen. Gas board engineers were later investigating.

## Posthumous bill

A bill sponsored by Donald Coleman, Labour MP for North, who died on January 14, was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday — an event believed to be without precedent in Parliament. The bill to widen protection for wildlife has now been taken over by his colleague, Ronald Davies, Labour MP for Caerphilly.

## Top lawyer dies

John Kelly, former attorney general of the Irish Republic and one of its leading constitutional lawyers, has died in Dublin, aged 59. Mr Kelly, Dublin, aged 59, was foreign minister in Garret FitzGerald's coalition government in 1981 to 1982. Mr Kelly, a Fine Gael MP, had a heart attack last week and died on Thursday night in hospital. *Obituary, page 12*

## Off-peak passport may be cheaper

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LOWER fees for passports requested during off-peak periods are being considered by the management team that will run passport offices as an agency outside the daily control of the civil service.

The aim would be to cut the large number of passport requests made from January to May, achieving a more even spread throughout the year.

Although the passport offices, at present controlled by the Home Office, have run a publicity drive to persuade people to avoid peak periods when applying for a passport, it has had little effect. More than a million leaflets and stickers were distributed in September to 11,000 travel agents and tour operators, but applications in the last three months of the year remained low.

A number of ideas are being considered by John Hayzel, chief passport officer and the chief executive-designate of the passport agency, which will be opened on April 2. One is to demand a higher fee from those who apply for a passport between January and May, the

busiest period. Another is to vary the period for which a passport is valid so that more will need renewing during the slack period between June and December.

The Home Office will retain the right to set passport fees but it said that introducing different charges was on the agenda for the new agency. The present fees for ten-year passports are £15 and £30 for the 32-page and 94-page versions respectively.

Passport applications are at their peak in the early months of each year, when most people plan their summer holidays. Last year there were 368,000 in January, 417,000 in February, and 456,000 in March. The figures dropped to less than 200,000 in each month of the last quarter of the year, and only 101,000 applications were made in December.

The agency management team believes that a more even spread of applications could result in a better service, cutting the processing time from an average of 12 working days during the peak period.



Postal honours: the work of Charles Babbage (left, 22p), pioneer of computer science, and Sir Frank Whittle (right, 37p), who designed



the jet engine, is marked in four stamps to be issued on March 5. The other two honour Michael Faraday and Robert Watson Watt

## Bidders chase forgotten silver

By JOHN SHAW

THE secrets of a trunk, hidden for more than a century, brought a £16,808 windfall for a family in Liverpool at Phillips silver sale in London yesterday. Fourteen lots of Georgian and Victorian silver were wrapped in old newspapers and chamois leather and packed away in a large metal-bound chest by a Liverpool woman in 1877.

It was stored in a bank vault by her solicitors and forgotten until the bank came across it in a basement clearout a

century later and contacted the lawyers who traced a descendant.

The silver, mainly tableware, was fresh to the market and the trade chased every lot well above estimate. A set of four George III telescopic candlesticks by John and Thomas Settle, Sheffield, 1817, went for £3,190 (estimate £2,200-£2,500), a George III globe inkstand by John Robins, 1800, made £2,970 (£1,000-£1,300), a George IV boat-shaped baby's bottle was bid to £2,300 (£350-£450), and a four-piece tea and

coffee set from the same reign went to £2,200 (£1,600-£1,800).

Eighteen lots of pretty Victorian jewellery were also packed away, but they will be sold next Tuesday and on February 12. The trunk will be sold in a luggage auction later this year. It is estimated to make £200.

The top price of the day was £8,800 (£5,000-£7,000) for a Charles II provincial tankard on pomegranate feet by John Plummer of York, 1667.

Collecting, page 17



Classroom briefing: Jeanne Socrates prepares boys at Latymer Upper school, Hammersmith, London, for a weekend survey for the RSPB

## Bird spotting takes over from war comics

By JOHN YOUNG

SCHOOL has ended and the January daylight is fading fast, but in a classroom overlooking the Thames at Hammersmith, west London, the members of Latymer Upper school young ornithologists' club have stayed behind to prepare for a weekend's birdwatching.

In time of conflict, it might be supposed that boys would be avidly reading war comics, but these children are memorising the markings of sparrows and gulls, woodpeckers and jackdaws before taking part in this weekend's annual survey by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to identify and record the numbers of each species they see.

Their teacher, Jeanne Socrates,

holding an illustrated chart, conducts a quickfire quiz. "Does anyone know what this bird is called? It's a sort of thrush, isn't it? Redwing? No. Fieldfare? Yes, that's right. Are we likely to see this bird in our gardens? No? Why? Because it's a tree sparrow, and it lives in the woods."

"Has anyone seen any unusual birds lately? Long-tailed tit? Good. Green woodpecker. Magpie. They can be rather vicious, like jays and jackdaws. They may kill other birds."

"If you see a bird which looks at first like a feral pigeon, check carefully. It might be a collared dove or a woodpigeon. Where do swifts go in winter? South, to Africa, that's right. Can you tell a male and female

robin apart? No, they can't tell each other apart."

Sam Moorhouse, aged 12, from Chiswick, plans to spend today in the garden with a notebook. "My grandmother encouraged me to join the young ornithologists because she loves birds," he said.

David Stevens, aged 12, also from Chiswick, became interested after seeing a pair of peregrines near his parents' cottage in Wales. "We have a rabbit at home in London and there is always some corn left over, so we see quite a lot of birds," he said.

Edwin Nissen, aged 10, from Hammersmith, learnt about birds from his grandparents in the country. Charles Finch, aged 11, started

birdwatching in the garden of his home in Ealing when only five.

There are now more than 120,000 members of young ornithologists' clubs, and the protection society says that support is growing steadily in urban areas as well in the country.

An official said: "The main purpose of this weekend's survey is to get children involved in what might be called a conservation project, but it also provides a useful indication of any changes that may be occurring. Last year, the starling replaced the house sparrow as most common bird, and, rather sadly, the song-thrush disappeared from the top ten. These are things we need to know."

Feather Report, page 15

## Decision on poll tax due in April

By DOUGLAS BROOM AND PHILIP WEBSTER

AN ANNOUNCEMENT on the future of the poll tax will be made by ministers before mid-April, although full details of the government's plans for local government reform will not be published until later in the year.

After a flurry of exchanges yesterday between Downing Street and the environment department it emerged that a decision on the future of the community charge would be made before the May municipal elections.

Clarification of the government's intentions followed confusion over remarks made by the prime minister to a meeting of the Conservative backbench 1922 committee on Thursday night.

John Major was reported as saying that the review of the poll tax and local government structure being conducted by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, would be completed by May. That led to hurried consultations morning between the environment department and Downing Street, where sources later denied that any promise had been made to MPs.

It was Mr Major's second embarrassment over the poll tax. Last week, he had to withdraw remarks made during a television interview with David Frost in which he suggested that abolition of the poll tax had been ruled out.

Mr Heseltine is expected to reassure Conservative council leaders that the government is serious about tackling the electoral consequences of the poll tax when he addresses a meeting in Coventry today.

He will tell the annual meeting of the Conservative local government advisory committee that he expects Tory councils to play their part in reviving the government's electoral fortunes by holding down the tax.

Voters go to the polls on May 2 to elect 209 English and Welsh shire district councils. One third of the seats on the remaining 124 shire districts and 36 metropolitan districts will also be up for election along with all seats on the 10,203 English parish and 808 Welsh community councils.

Mr Heseltine will go out of

## Family of four dead

By KERRY GILL

POLICE were last night investigating the discovery of four members of a family found dead, believed shot, at their home in a Scottish glen.

The bodies were of a man and woman, said to be in their thirties, and two children. They were found in the house, a mile from the parish church, in Glen Devon, close to the A823 between Crieff and Dundfermline. The bungalow was one of four scattered

houses overlooking the river Devon.

The family moved there before Christmas. Elvidina Adamson-Macdonald, a neighbour, said: "I have only seen one member of the family since they arrived, the man of the house."

Tayside police were called to the house at about 9am yesterday and set up an incident room at Kinross police station. They would not say

whether they were looking for any other person or would not confirm reports that a gun had been involved. A report was sent to the Procurator-fiscal.

The names of the dead were being withheld by police last night but they are believed to be Gavin and Lorraine Simpson and their young sons, Daniel and Martin. Mr Simpson ran a taxi and car dealing business in Auchtermarder, seven miles away.

## Notice issued by Secretary of State for the Home Department

### Iraqi Nationals

If you are an Iraqi National with a time limit on your stay in the United Kingdom, you are now required to register with the police. The law has changed because of the Immigration (Variation of Leave) Order 1991. If you are already registered, you need take no further action other than to notify the police of any change in your circumstances (e.g. a new address). If you are not registered with the police and you live in London, you should report immediately to the Aliens' Registration Office, 10 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NX, between 9am and 4.45pm, Monday-Friday. If you live outside London, you should ask immediately at the nearest police station for advice about where to register. In either case, you should take your passport and two passport-sized photographs with you. A fee of £36 will be charged for registration.

The requirement to register with the police and to keep them informed of any change of address is a condition of your leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

HOME OFFICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY DEPARTMENT



## Judge withdraws claim that police suppressed report

By CRAIG SETON

A HIGH Court judge who accused West Midlands police of suppressing a secret report into a police operation in which a girl died ten years ago withdrew the allegation yesterday and "completely exonerated" the force.

Mr Justice Hodgson had called for an enquiry into the apparent concealment of the document and an investigation into the affair is now likely to be abandoned.

The judge, sitting at the High Court in Birmingham, accepted that the force had not concealed the confidential report into the fatal shooting by police marksmen of Gail Kinchin after Patrick Bennett, QC, for West Midlands police, said that a memorandum about the existence of the document had been disclosed by the force to its legal advisers six or seven years ago. Mr Bennett represented the force in a case last year in which Gail Kinchin's mother sued it for negligence over the death and was awarded more than £8,000 damages. He said

yesterday that the failure to ask the police to produce the confidential report on the operation in which the 16-year-old girl died was the responsibility of the force's legal advisers, but as leading counsel he must accept the blame.

Mr Justice Hodgson's criticism last month was contained in his judgment on the adjourned case in which the mother, Josephine Wood, claimed that police had mishandled the operation in 1980 when her daughter was shot by police marksmen as she was used as a shield by her armed boyfriend.

The court had been told that as the case was about to end, the existence became known of an internal report by a senior officer which criticised the operation and supported claims made by Mrs Wood. The judge said that had it not been revealed, there would have been a serious risk of an injustice being done.

The judge's comments severely embarrassed West

Midlands police, which was already the subject of three enquiries, one into its handling of the Birmingham Six investigation and two concerning its now disbanded serious crime squad.

The force appointed Hugh Carlisle, QC, to investigate the alleged suppression of the Gail Kinchin document, which had been prepared by Detective Chief Superintendent Tom Meffien, who has now retired. At yesterday's special session of the court, Mr Bennett told Mr Justice Hodgson that a memorandum about Mr Meffien's report had been disclosed to the force's legal advisers in 1984 or 1985.

He told the judge: "I apologise not only for failing to deal with the memorandum but also for not taking earlier steps to afford you an opportunity to reconsider the matter."

The judge said: "It is now quite clear that what I said about the suppression of the report was quite wrong and I am extremely sorry that I was led into the error I made."



Child's play: Demolition starting yesterday on the unloved houses of the Southgate estate in Runcorn, Cheshire, known locally as Legoland. The houses, built in the early Seventies, appealed more to planners than to those who

lived in them. They were system-built with porthole windows, their bolted-on exterior walls in reinforced bright blue, red and yellow fibreglass, engendering a strong community spirit against them. About 300 families are to be rehoused

on the site in houses conventionally built by Merseyside Improved Houses. The decision to demolish the unpopular estate was taken in 1989 after consultants had said it would be expensive to repair and maintain.

## Planting of forests gains ground

By KERRY GILL

PEOPLE who live in towns are being encouraged to help to develop their own community forests, many on previously derelict land, encouraging employment in forestry, conservation and leisure, according to the Forestry Commission, which published its annual report yesterday.

The programme to create community forests on the outskirts of towns and cities in England and Wales was launched by the commission and the Countryside Commission in July 1989. Yesterday, Raymond Johnstone, the Forestry Commission chairman, said woodlands in Britain had doubled since the end of the first world war to more than two million hectares.

Mr Johnstone added that last year 5,000 hectares of broadleaved trees were planted compared with only 500 hectares ten years ago.

However, the overall level of tree planting last year was down 33 per cent on the previous year after forestry tax relief was abolished in the 1988 budget, leading to less investment in tree planting.

## MPs' vote brings easier life for pigs a step closer

Factory pig farms may be no more but there will be no return to the apple orchard. Michael Hornsby looks back to a less-than-golden age

A LESS restricted life for pigs came a step nearer yesterday when the House of Commons gave an unopposed second reading to a private member's bill that would outlaw the use of all stalls and tethers within five years. The government has proposed an eight-year phasing-out of such systems.

The MPs debating the bill, sponsored by Sir Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, may have imagined they were being asked to choose between intensive indoor rearing and a return to a golden age when farmers allowed their pigs to run freely in green fields.

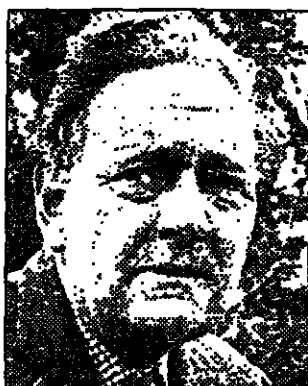
The truth is more complex. The cottage-industry pig-keeping of before the second world war and for some years after may have been picturesque but there were not much else to be said for it. Such diseases as pneumonia, rhinitis, dysentery and swine fever were spread by poor management and contaminated feed.

Pig-breeding was in disarray. An obsession with colour and shape rather than productive ability produced such freaks as pigs that were so fat and unstable that their legs had to be splinted to prevent buckling. The first modern pig-breeding company was set up in Britain in the early 1960s. At about the same time supermarkets began to demand reliable supplies of uni-

formly lean meat at competitive prices. That meant that sows had to be able to produce bigger litters more regularly and individual animals needed closer attention.

Fig herds became much larger and most were moved into big indoor units where conditions could be controlled. The cottage-industry operator was driven out of business. Today there are 15,000 pig holdings, some with more than 1,000 sows, against 85,000 in 1970.

Production has increased dramatically. Britons now consume nearly 40lb of pork a head a year against 5lb 50 years ago. Since the 1960s the shop price of pork has fallen by about 30 per cent in real



Body: bill would outlaw use of tethers

terms. But concern has risen about the welfare of pigs in the so-called "factory farms".

Just over half the 800,000 sows on United Kingdom farms are kept in individual narrow stalls or tethered to the floor in rows by girth or neck straps. In most cases there is no straw bedding and the animals stand or lie on concrete slats, unable to exercise their limbs or turn round.

Keeping sows in separate stalls avoids squabbling and fighting during feeding; the sow's feeding rate and breeding cycle can be accurately monitored; and signs of illness can be spotted more quickly.

Under the welfare pressure, some farmers have returned to outdoor free-range pig rearing. That costs less for buildings and equipment but output is lower, more stockmen are needed and only light well-drained land is suitable. About 10 per cent of sows are now raised in that way, but it is uncertain how much that percentage can be increased.

A more viable alternative is to have more spacious indoor units with straw-lined areas for rest and sleeping and a concrete exercise yard with electronically controlled feeding systems. Sows wear plastic collars fitted with an identifying microchip or transponder. When it enters a feeding stall, a computer recognises the animal and delivers the correct amount of feed.

Pig farmers say they need at least ten years to switch to such systems. Grenville Welsh, chief executive of the National Pigbreeders' Association, says: "We estimate that the industry will have to write off £50 million worth of existing plant. Banning tethers and stalls is likely to add between £2 and £4 a pig to production costs."

## Bill brings a rash of concern

By PETER MULLIGAN

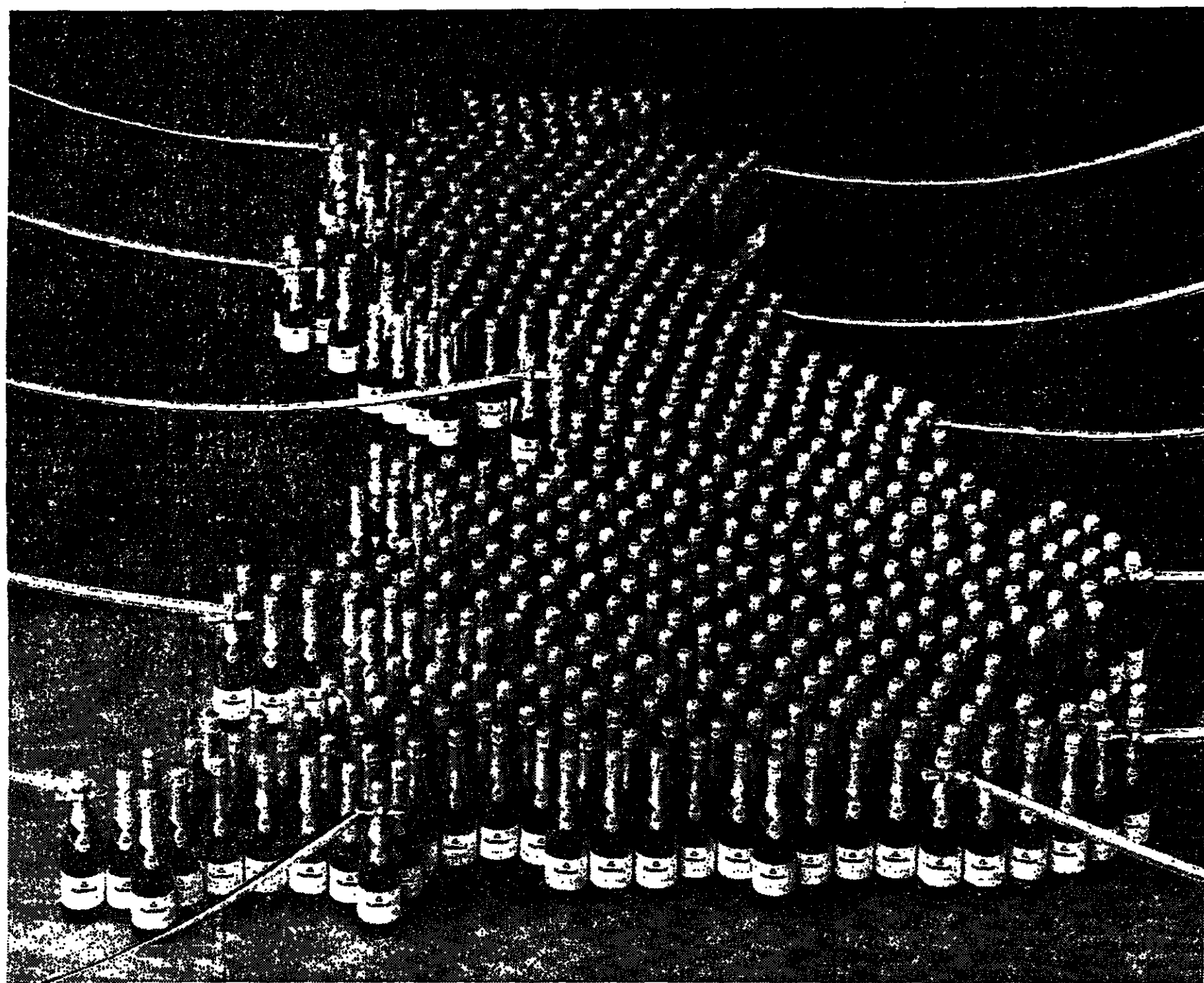
A MINISTER told MPs debating the bill to improve the welfare of pigs that he had received more mail on the subject than on events in the Middle East.

MPs were told that the practices of tethering sows by a 2ft chain or housing them in narrow stalls caused the animals acute stress and even mental derangement.

Sir Richard Body's bill was approved without a vote, though David Maclean, junior agriculture minister, opposed its timetable on economic grounds. The minister acknowledged the effect of the issue on his postbag but argued that the bill would cost the already precarious pig industry £30 million as opposed to £9 million under his own timetable of a phase-out within eight years.

Sir Richard told MPs that a young sow placed in a stall for the first time was likely to struggle for half an hour, scream and then subside. It became either listless or mentally deranged.

"When the animal is released after four months to go into a farrowing crate it will very often be aggressive and vicious and quite often will attack the stockman," he said. A bill sponsored by Sir Richard to improve the welfare of animals at slaughter was also given an unopposed second reading.



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Planting  
of forests  
gains  
ground

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 26 1991

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OVERSEAS NEWS 9

## Bitter attack by Prunskiene on radical Lithuanians

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

KAZIMIERA Prunskiene, who resigned as Lithuanian prime minister earlier this month after riots against planned rises in food prices, has launched a bitter attack on the radical nationalist faction of the Sajudis independence movement in the Baltic republic.

## Newsman get a taste of Vilnius justice

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

THREE British journalists were threatened and temporarily detained here by the Soviet military on Thursday night. The three were Marcus Warren of *The Daily Telegraph*, Brian Killen of Reuters, and myself.

The reporters had gone to investigate an incident involving a Soviet armoured column which had allegedly opened fire on a car containing guards from the Lithuanian supreme council.

On hearing the news of the incident, a group of soldiers levelled their automatic rifles, screamed abuse and ordered us to put up our hands and empty our pockets. When I was slow to respond, a soldier fired a single round over my head.

We were bundled into the back of a military vehicle, together with two Lithuanian supreme council guards who had accompanied us. There were three other council guards already in the vehicle.

We were driven to the main Soviet military base. Initially, the soldiers just yelled insults. Then one of them slapped a Lithuanian, and gradually the others joined in. We were not harmed but the beating of the Lithuanian guards continued.

After about 3½ hours, we were taken by car to the military command centre. Bracing ourselves for an interrogation, we were surprised when a colonel told us that we were free to leave. Most of our equipment was returned, but more than \$2,000 (£1,000) remained with the soldiers. The colonel, without blinking, told us to write to the general in charge to ask for the return of the money.

Several people were arrested by the Yugoslav army in Croatia yesterday as Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's president, told a session of the Croatian parliament that the federal army was attempting to stage a coup in the republic.

The Yugoslav defence ministry said that several people suspected of organising or arming "illegal paramilitary groups" had been arrested yesterday and on Thursday.

It said they were suspected of planning terrorist acts, but gave no further details. This direct intervention came after the army had threatened to put soldiers on combat readiness following Croatia's refusal to comply with an order to disarm its police forces, which had been mobilised a week ago.

Britain yesterday summoned the Yugoslav charge d'affaires to express grave concern over Belgrade's threat to use force against Croatia and Slovenia. Douglas Hogg, the junior minister at the Foreign Office, told Feodor Starzecvic that Britain was "following events in Yugoslavia very closely and would deplore any use of force or threat of force against the democratically elected governments."

There is concern that the federal authorities may try to overthrow the pro-independence government in the same way that Moscow is trying to crush independence movements in the Baltic.

There are no contingency plans on how the West should react, but

for her Communist past and advocacy of compromise with Moscow. Her successor, Dr Gediminas Vagnorius, is considered to be part of this faction.

Mrs Prunskiene, now in Western Europe, said she wished to serve the cause of independence by helping to organise international aid to the republic. There have been reports that she means to seek political asylum in Switzerland, but the Lithuanian government has refused to confirm this, or rumours it is trying to prevent her controlling funds donated to Lithuania by émigrés, which are held in a Swedish bank account in her name.

Mrs Prunskiene has alleged that she was subject to "blackmail" by some of her colleagues - probably a reference to the whispering campaign by Sajudis radicals accusing her of being a KGB agent. One deputy has called for her to be brought to trial for harming Lithuanian interests by her economic policy. In his response in parliament, Dr Vagnorius did not rule out this possibility.

Although Lithuanians are trying to pull together in the face of the Soviet military threat, this episode has deepened the bitterness between radicals and moderates. Their conflict is also a reflection of a desire by "new men" to oust the Communist bureaucracy which still largely administers the country and dominates academia.

After the arrest and beating by Soviet soldiers of six Lithuanian supreme council guards on Thursday night, Zigmantas Vaisvila, the Lithuanian deputy prime minister, said yesterday that on December 29, Boris Pugo, the Soviet interior minister, and Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister, issued a secret order that from February 1 Soviet military and interior ministry forces should begin heightened joint patrols of towns where Soviet garrisons are stationed.

Mr Vaisvila said the order forms part of a plan eventually to impose military rule in the Baltic and elsewhere. Later reports from Moscow said a ministry document, relating to such proposals, was leaked to the independent Interfax news agency.

● RIGA: The Baltic peoples' dignity and restraint in the face of provocation was superbly displayed yesterday as tens of thousands of people gathered for the funeral of three people killed in Sunday night's bloody gun battle, when Soviet commandos took over the republic's interior ministry in the centre of Riga, the Latvian capital (Bruce Clark writes).

Men and women of all ages stood in passive and occasionally tearful silence for the funeral hymns and orations, one of them by Ivars Godmanis, the prime minister.

Leading article, page 11

## Yugoslav army rounds up people in Croatia

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL BINYON IN LONDON

SEVERAL people were arrested by the Yugoslav army in Croatia yesterday as Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's president, told a session of the Croatian parliament that the federal army was attempting to stage a coup in the republic.

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Carrying the torch for freedom: an elderly woman among more than 3,000 people at a Hong Kong candlelight vigil protesting against the trial in Peking of Wang Dan for his part as a prominent student leader of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in China

## Moscow complains of limits on migration to the West

FROM BRENDA FOWLER IN VIENNA

THE Soviet Union's chief delegate to an East-West migration conference in Vienna yesterday criticised West European countries for trying to limit the free movement of Soviet citizens.

"We used to limit people from leaving the country and today, now that we have approved it, some interior ministers present here propose to forbid entry," said Vladimir Cherbakov, president of the state committee for work and social questions.

"In our estimation, these discriminatory measures limit the rights of Soviet citizens to free circulation in Europe. It contradicts, in our opinion, not only the law, but also the spirit of the Helsinki accord and the European Charter."

Mr Cherbakov underlined the dilemma now facing many West-

ern European countries, who for years had called for communist countries to let their people travel freely, but who now have found themselves flooded with refugees and black marketeers.

"There is a contradiction between freedom of movement and the wish to avoid migratory inflows that are detrimental both to the country of origin and the receiving countries," acknowledged Catherine Lalumière, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, which sponsored the conference attended by 35 countries.

While all countries agreed that the best way to stop migration was to take away migrants' reasons for wanting to leave their home country, the final statement only vaguely addressed the need to provide economic aid to the former communist countries. The

final communiqué, which Mr Cherbakov described as "restrictive", called for national migration and asylum policies to be harmonised in keeping with the Geneva Convention, and for measures to prevent multiple applications for asylum. There was also a promise to exchange information on labour markets and to take measures against illegal employment of immigrants - a special problem in countries such as Austria and Germany.

They also called for youth training exchanges, and a German delegate announced that negotiations with the Soviet Union would soon begin to train 15,000 young Soviet citizens in Germany.

Responding to fears in the West that millions of Soviet citizens would pour across Europe as soon as they have passports, Mr Cherbakov said that, while studies had shown that five to six million Soviet citizens were dissatisfied with their present conditions, he estimated that only up to 2 million of them would seek to emigrate west. A law that would allow Soviet citizens to get a passport quickly would probably be passed within the next few months, but that did not mean a stampede for the West.

But he gave a warning that, if Western Europe did not want an influx of Soviet citizens, it should help the Soviet Union move more quickly to a market economy and provide more financial aid.

Leading article, page 11



Safe hands: a wounded Tamil being carried to safety by villagers in Kilinochchi, northern Sri Lanka, after government aircraft allegedly attacked Tamil Tiger rebels. The guerrillas said yesterday that because of heavy bombardment they were ending a unilateral ceasefire

## ANC salvo over trial of Winnie Mandela

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE African National Congress (ANC) declared yesterday that the trial of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges, which is due to start on February 4, was a breach of the spirit of agreements between the government and the ANC.

Alfred Nzo, the ANC secretary-general, described the trial of Nelson Mandela's wife as part of the "pattern of harassment and persecution to which Comrade Winnie has been subjected for the last 30 years". Mrs Mandela is facing trial with seven other people after the alleged abduction of four black youths from Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg, to her home in December 1988. One youth, Stompie Seipei, aged 14, was killed and Jerry Richardson, the coach of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards, was sentenced to death for his murder last May.

The ANC has announced that Mrs Mandela will be defended by Dikgang Moseke, deputy head of the Pan Africanist Congress, one of the ANC's main political rivals. George Biko, who defended Mr Mandela at his trial in 1964, will also be on the defence team.

Mr Mandela, now deputy president of the ANC, is due to lead a mass march on parliament in Cape Town next week as President de Klerk addresses South Africa on how he believes the country should make the transition to a multiracial democracy.

The ANC says the march will mark the start of its campaign to press for elections to a constituent assembly and an interim government. A spokesman said that marches would be held around the country and a mass work stayaway was planned in Transvaal.

Mr de Klerk has proposed an all-party conference to draw up a new constitution leading to elections, but the ANC wants round-table talks leading to "one man, one vote" elections.

● JOHANNESBURG: Lawyers for South Africa, a human rights organisation, yesterday echoed charges by American and Swiss-based groups accusing the police of inciting warfare in black townships. The group published 30 affidavits from residents of a troubled Johannesburg shantytown alleging police repeatedly shot at ANC followers.

Twenty of the affidavits alleged that whites with blackened faces took part in fighting in the Phola Park squatter camp. (Reuters)

## Engineer condemns execution chair

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW ORLEANS

LOUISIANA'S electric chair unnecessarily burns and mutilates the people it kills, an engineer has testified.

John Webster was the first witness in a federal court hearing on Thursday to determine whether the chair is so badly designed that Robert Wayne Sawyer should not be executed in it for torturing and killing a woman in 1979.

Mr Webster criticised the shape of a big, curved electrode that is strapped to the condemned person's head to carry a 2,000-volt shock to the brain, and the placement of a second electrode below the knee. Mr Webster said the head electrode was a long oval, and that "this elongation concentrates the current density just beyond the electrode's end". This caused unnecessary heating, burning and mutilation.

Mr Webster also said that a sponge used to conduct electricity from the electrode to the scalp had many large spaces in it, and was wetted and wrung out, rather than left thoroughly soaked. Wringing out the sponge made it harder for electricity to flow through it, causing more heat and burns, said Mr Webster. He said the leg electrode's position also caused unnecessary burning.

Sawyer was in the courtroom, with both his hands and feet shackled. Other death row inmates have argued unsuccessfully that electrocution is "unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment", but Nicholas Trenticosta of the Loyola Death Penalty Resource Centre, also representing Sawyer, said this was the first case to question the design of Louisiana's chair.

Annette Viator, chief counsel for Louisiana's Department of Corrections, said the case could affect 30 other death row inmates awaiting electrocution.

Sawyer, aged 40, and Charles Lane were convicted of beating, raping and burning alive Frances Arwood, aged 23, of Avondale. They poured scalding water on her and doused her with lighter fluid, prosecutors said. Lane was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Previously, lawyers for Sawyer have focused on his low IQ; his history of mental illness; and his having been abused as a child.

## India fearful for future of democracy

Delhi - President Venkatarman of India expressed serious concern for the future of democracy in his country.

In a speech prepared for broadcast on the eve of India's national day, he attacked separatist campaigns and Hindu-Muslim violence, and also criticised politicians for their behaviour in parliament and the state assemblies, where proceedings have often been halted with demonstrations, shoe-throwing and walkouts. (Reuters)

## Dhaka warning

Dhaka - Bangladesh's interim government has told the fugitive former prime minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, and 10 of his cabinet colleagues to surrender or risk losing their property. Mr Ahmed, prime minister to the ousted president, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has promised to hold free and impartial parliamentary elections on February 27 to restore democracy. (Reuters)

## Battle for life

Washington - Doctors were battling to save the life of a baby girl who first appeared dead, but then showed signs of life, after being taken by caesarean section from the body of her murdered mother. Her mother, Maria Elizabeth Rodriguez, aged 20, was shot and police in suburban Maryland are seeking her estranged husband. (AFP)

## Zhivkov trial

Sofia - Former Bulgarian communist leader Todor Zhivkov, aged 79, will stand trial next month for misbehaving millions of pounds in public funds and abusing his power, the *Duma* newspaper reported. The former president will be tried with his close associate Milko Balev, a member of his politburo. (Reuters)

## Barre pledge

Nairobi - President Siad Barre approved a 25-member cabinet named by his newly appointed prime minister and promised to relinquish power if shooting stops in Mogadishu, the capital. Rebels of the United Somali Congress have been fighting government troops since December.

## Dissidents held

Seoul - Two leaders of South Korea's umbrella dissident organisation have been arrested for allegedly preparing to form a league of national unification with North Korea. (AFP)

## Anti-war victim McGovern tests the electoral waters

FROM PETER STOTHARD US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE badges are 20 years old. Students in New Hampshire are rifling through their parents' memento boxes to show their support for a 1970s hero who is this week hinting at a final "final performance". It is so far a slowly stirring movement, but to the consternation of the Democratic party, George McGovern, victim of 1972, is back.

At the end of the Vietnam war, spurred on by middle-class protesters with "McGovern for president" on their lapels, the then senator from South Dakota suffered one of the most crushing presidential defeats in American history. Now he is again in the spotlight, attracting campus interest from voters who were barely born when he attempted his comic secret diplomacy with Hanoi, when his dreams of a nirvana in which all people were

nice to each other foundered in humiliation by Richard Nixon. The 1991 McGovern message is "the new patriotism", an attempt to pull together opposition themes to President Bush's handling of the economy, social welfare as well as the Gulf war. He offered himself to an audience at the University of New Hampshire on Thursday night and was greeted with enthusiasm which apparently surprised even him. Currently there is no presidential race for 1992, with every Democratic hopeful sitting out the war to see which side he should be on.

He said: "If no candidate emerges, I come to tell you I may fill the leadership vacuum." Mr McGovern has assembled a committee of 16 backers who will work over the coming months to see if he has a chance of turning that "may" into a "will". He estimates that he needs \$500,000 to get serious. "I would prefer

that a younger, less battle-scarred candidate would now come forward. But if that is not to be, then I believe that I am ready physically and mentally to raise the Democratic standard."

New Hampshire, where critical early primaries are held in an election year, holds happy memories for Mr McGovern. His second-place showing in the state in 1972 propelled him to the eventual candidature on an anti-war ticket.

In the November election, however, battered by his own incompetence and the black propaganda of Creep, the infamous Committee to Re-elect the President, he won only in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. He was never able to take advantage of Watergate, which eventually felled his victorious opponent.

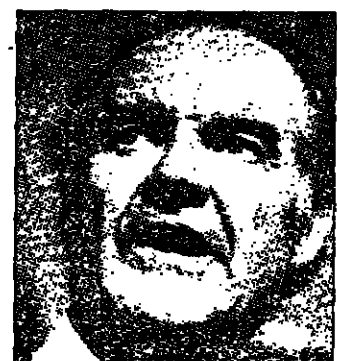
Since that defeat, Mr McGovern has made other comeback attempts, the last when he

tried to win the Democratic nomination in 1984, won by the equally hapless Walter Mondale. After that, he tried a business career, saying that he had spent so much campaigning time in motels that he ought to know how to run one. He did not. He tried a joint ownership of a roadside inn in Stratford, Connecticut, but recently filed for bankruptcy.

The McGovern candidacy has already provided some harmless amusement for commentators starved of much domestic political action during the early days of the Gulf war. To Democratic officials, however, whose predecessors opposed Mr McGovern in 1972 as unelectable outside the liberal northeast, the intervention is more disturbing.

The Democrats already stand accused of being unpatriotic in the war against President Saddam Hussein. Their congressional leaders all opposed the

vote for war on Capitol Hill and, in a rare piece of wartime partisanship, the new chairman of the Republican national committee, the former agriculture secretary, Clayton Yeutter, this week threatened that they would be made to suffer in 1992 for their stance.



McGovern: may be ready to fill the leadership vacuum



## English as she is spelt

David Lipsey

Spelling is by some way the least important of the educational basics. In the modern world, an inability to read or write or to add up disabilities more seriously than many physical handicaps. An imperfect grasp of grammar can lead to misunderstanding or ridicule. Spelling, by contrast, must be very poor indeed before it creates serious practical difficulty. The greatest writer of English, Shakespeare, spelt his name three different ways.

In a handful of trades the ability to spell, if not (in the age of the computer spellchecker) a *sine qua non*, is a considerable professional advantage. The editor of *The Times* is disinclined to employ those whose letters of application contain misspellings. The joys of the crossword and the delights of Scrabble are also beyond poor spellers. Otherwise, they are capable of enjoying a nearly normal and adequately profitable life.

Rationally, therefore, the promotion of good spelling should come pretty near the bottom of the list of the skills that education should impart. In that case, there is no practical justification for the recent decision by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, that marks should be deducted for bad spelling in examinations in other subjects — history, for example.

Yet the response to Mr Clarke's proposal shows we are not dealing with the rational. Spelling is a matter that evokes in otherwise sensible people the most passionate feelings. Faced with poor spelling, the liberal turn pedant; the modest, arrogant; the mild-mannered, splenetic. They chastise children, terrorise teachers, hector heads. They pontificate on the airwaves. They write to *The Times*. So powerful is the movement that the parents of poor spellers have adopted the term "dyslexia", a distressing affliction suffered by a few, as a mask to cover the weak spelling of their offspring.

Why? The explanation is essentially sociological. Though good spelling is almost worthless practically, it is sociologically functional, as a sorting device.

More people want to be members of society's civilised elite than it can accommodate. The rationing of entry is partly done by money, which assists with the purchase of the appurtenances of civilisation: pictures, opera tickets, caviar and champagne. However, many moneyed men are not civilised and some civilised men are not moneyed. So people must be excluded on characteristics other than their ability to write a big cheque.

Various social tests are instituted. An obvious example is table manners, which help determine whether people are qualified for admission to the elite. The trouble is that nearly anyone can learn table manners. Spelling is a more effective method. Easily acquired when young, it is harder to learn later. The sons and daughters of the existing elite generally manage to pick it up with their mothers' milk but outsiders struggle. Thus the privileged protect their position from generation to generation. If you cannot spell "successful" you are never going to be successful.

John Major is supposed to be in favour of the classless society, of dismantling artificial obstacles to mobility. So why is his education secretary making this obstacle higher? Shome mistake surely?

For all its self-image of secular agnosticism, Britain is a nation that secretly prays. Prayer in the 1990s has become like sex a century ago: everybody does it, few admit it. Survey statistics, though likely to be inexact on something so private, suggest that once a day is not abnormal.

In the midst of the stress of war, what is there to pray for, and how? Some of the captured allied airmen paraded on Baghdad television asked for prayers, and the nation will surely want to oblige. But as Cardinal Basil Hume movingly admitted on the BBC's Gulf Vigil the day after war broke out, when he tried to pray in his private chapel the night before, he could find no words. His effort to pray was prayer enough, he realised. Those who felt an urge to pray, as war began, had only to try: God would accept the attempt.

That solves one difficulty but could create another. If words are not necessary, what is the line between prayer and mere feeling? Those less confident in their faith than Cardinal Hume might feel they are locked out, alone with their thoughts.

The landscape is not without signposts, however. Prayer has been much written about and

Clifford Longley sees more to prayer than a wish we would like granted

## Comfort in midst of conflict

analysed: there are even experts. The most common form of prayer, they say, is petitionary: asking specific favours from God. In many ways it is rationally the most troublesome. Not every request is granted; many such requests sound in the cold light of day like childish pleas for miracles. And if God knows everything, why is it necessary to ask Him?

For reasons like these, some of the more advanced practitioners sometimes sound disparaging about petitionary prayer, calling it immature, just for novices. There are better answers than that. In petitionary prayer what is presented to God is a wish or desire, but what is answered is the need the wish expresses (or disguises). Psychologists and parents are familiar with wishes and needs not corresponding, the latter being hidden from the individual himself. Like a parent with a child, God answers the buried need, not the surface desire. If the prayer is

for another, the needs met are the other's needs — and always, also and abundantly, one's own.

The higher slopes of prayer involve the extinction of such wants and desires and the end of verbalisation, but an increased sense of presence and communication, and of needs being met. The experience has been likened to two people who love each other being present silently together in the same room: for all the lack of activity, it is not at all like being in a room alone.

Prayer states have even been mapped, so that the development from petitionary prayer towards contemplation, even the ecstasies and visions of mystics, are seen to involve a progression over time through different zones. Some of them — the "dark night of the soul" is the classic case — can be unwarding and even frightening. Those who have endured them have understood them as an ordeal sent to test and purify. The

writings of the mystics who have ventured furthest have an intense, almost erotic, quality.

Prayer states can be learnt, or triggered unexpectedly. Simone Weil, the great Jewish-French philosopher and mystic who died in exile in England during the second world war, claimed to have had a vision of Christ when she first read George Herbert's *Love* in 1938, and was not even a Christian.

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back, Guiltily of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack From my first entrance in, Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning If I lack'd anything. A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here. Love said, You shall be he. I, the unkind, ungrateful! Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.*

*Love took my hand and smiling did reply: Who made the eyes but I? Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them; let my shame Go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat. So I did sit and eat.*

The character of prayer is humility, but humility is not a condition. This is an odd and paradoxical territory, where two and two never makes four. Faith is necessary, but having none, it is possible to pray for some: there is no merit in prayer, but God rewards it, striving invariably fails, for God is never impressed. But it is wrong to say prayer is so illogical that it is like nothing else on earth. What is most remarkable about prayer, the best evidence that it is an objective

reality rather than a fantasy, is that the rules it follows are the same as the rules of the closest personal relationships: of parents and children, of lovers. Those who achieve the simplest, the earliest stage, the simple demand for the meeting of immediate wishes, say they seem to experience a growing relationship with something real, something caught, for instance, by George Herbert's poem.

The rules that shape prayer are not imposed but discovered, as not imposed but discovered, as from an independent reality outside individual consciousness and side imagination. The understanding that can be learnt through prayer can be applied effectively in other contexts, and mostly they are contexts governed by human love. Prayer can change the personality, beyond much doubt for the better, just as happy childhood, good marriage or fulfilling parenthood can do the same.

Wisdom, balance, insight and growth are hard to explain if prayer is a pretend relationship, a mere self-delusion. Hardest of all to explain is that what begins as groping in the dark gradually develops into a humblingly overpowering sense of loving and being loved. And that is the universal human need, the answer to every prayer.

## Death blows to democracy too

This is a politicians' war in which the interests of ordinary people, in the Gulf and elsewhere, count for nothing, writes Mary Kaldor

We are told that the Gulf war is about democracy, and democracy of course is about people. Yet the strange characteristic of this war, at least as seen on television, is that people seem to be excluded. It is a war between states represented by missiles, airmen, or politicians. There are apparently few casualties and hardly any ordinary people, least of all women. The image of this war is the video screen of an advanced aircraft — a little white arrow (our side) skilfully manoeuvred into a fuzzy grey hole (their side).

War always polarises and narrows vision to what seems essential. It reduces complex political situations to a zero-sum game — good versus bad, our side versus their side, democracy versus barbarism. Those who oppose this war, whether they like it or not, are at worst identified with barbarism, and at best, accused of naivety, of not understanding the true nature of Saddam Hussein's rule of fear.

Yet if we try to look beyond the video screen, to take into account people and not just states, to think about the future of democracy in the Middle East as a whole, then it may turn out that the simple good-bad characterisation is something we shall deeply regret for decades to come. It may turn out that our children and grandchildren, if they survive, will wonder at our global irresponsibility and feel great shame.

On the video screen we cannot see if there are people inside the fuzzy grey hole. The bombing raids on Iraq are probably among the biggest in history. Both sides are remarkably reticent about the casualties. Yet despite the precision of our high-tech weaponry, it is impossible that more than 15,000 sorties, dropping several times the firepower of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, have not killed, at the very least, several hundred people.

A few reports are coming through. The Kurdish Democratic party suggests there have been 4,000 military casualties and many civilian casualties. No doubt in the weeks to come there will be more casualties and more deaths, especially among children, as a result of the destruction of basic services — water, electricity, sanitation, transport. Moreover, it is most unlikely that we in the West will escape casualties as a result of intensified terrorist attacks.

This war is also mind-bogglingly expensive — costing the American forces a total of at least \$600 million a day and the British \$3.6 million a day — plus \$100 million so far in ammunition and lost aircraft. And those figures do not include costs incurred before the war began, or those of other allied forces. It is people living in Africa and Asia, already facing famine, who will bear the cost of high interest rates, high oil prices and the forgone peace dividend from the end of the Cold War. And as for the ecological effect of blazing oilfields and bombed nuclear reactors — who knows?

The opinions of ordinary people also seem to be largely left out of the coverage of this war. In the West this is because the focus on politicians. Political debate on television or in newspapers is largely conducted by politicians. Opposition to the war, which is barely represented in Parliament, tends to be marginalised.

War coverage has to be immediate. There is no time for history or reflection. We seem to have forgotten our own responsibility for the Saddam Hussein phenomenon — our failure to condemn his aggression against Iran, to introduce sanctions when chemical weapons were used both against Iran and rebellious Kurds at home, and our support for Iraq in the last years of the war with Iran. It would not be surprising if every Iraqi casualty, every surgical strike that to us seems so pure and



Voice of protest that is largely overlooked: Americans in Paris hold a vigil just before the expiry of the UN deadline to Iraq

remote, were to strengthen accumulated hostility and mistrust of western "imperialists".

True, there are Arab states on our side. But none are democratic. None represent the opinion of ordinary Arab people. Paradoxically, western military involvement has increased support for Saddam. The Hausa section of the BBC overseas service voted him man of the year. Arabs in southern France listen to pop songs in his praise. Palestinians talk about liberating Jerusalem together with Iraq. And in Iraq itself, no-one can be sure whether the bombing raids will demolish Iraqis, as expected, or will pull them into line behind their leader. Some Iraqi opposition leaders and observers recently in Baghdad say that opinion in Iraq is hardening behind Saddam. (The outbreak of the second world war similarly undermined resistance to Hitler among the German people.)

If we look beyond the video screen from a perspective of people rather than states, we are likely to reach different conclusions about this war. Indeed we may not even succeed in punishing Saddam and deterring future aggressors. Because of the human, economic and ecological costs, it is we who may be considered brutal by people on the other side.

Even if Saddam is defeated and killed, he could easily end up a martyr, rewarded for his aggression, by becoming, in the eyes of ordinary Arabs, the leader who had a go at the hi-tech fiends. Future Saddam Husseins could easily try the same game — fortifying themselves perhaps with even larger stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. We may find ourselves locked

into a conflict in the Middle East for years to come in which Britain, America and Israel, supported sporadically by undemocratic Arab states, confront the popular legacy of Saddam Hussein, in which the space for genuine democratic alternatives is squeezed.

There might still be time to avoid such an outcome if, while maintaining pressure on Saddam through sanctions, we were to halt the bombing raids now, declare a ceasefire and come out in support of an urgent peace conference at which all the problems of the Middle East would be discussed. That way there might be a chance of influencing Arab opinion and undermining Saddam's position from within.

Democracy can never be imposed. In the end it was the peoples of Eastern Europe who overthrew their governments, not western military might. If we are really

serious about democracy, the most we can do is to act consistently to further the cause of democracy and self-determination. To do this we need to take into account the interests of the poorest people in our economic relationships with the Middle East and the Third World, and to control the transfer of military technology.

If this war goes on to the bitter end, then journalists, commentators and analysts have a responsibility to explore the full consequences of what is happening, to try to understand the world from different perspectives — the perspective of ordinary people and their actual experiences, not the abstractions of right and wrong personified in states.

Mary Kaldor is author of *The Imaginary War: Understanding the East-West Conflict*, recently published by Blackwell.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

This week I went to a "theatrical disturbance" at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. It was called *Mozart At Choccolat*.

It was my friend Simon's idea: Simon, who roadminded me into a "human circus" in a tent on Clapham Common with performing cyclists and a man who juggled chainsaws; Simon, who sent me on a package tour of Albania. Regretting neither, I decided to try this.

Simon arrived in the sports car he had bought to celebrate his not dying after he had surfaced from deep-sea diving in the Seychelles and succumbed to the bends at 30,000ft in an airliner.

I arrived on my bicycle, wearing my new crash helmet. Mrs Wright, my secretary, bought this to preserve my life. On my back was my lemon-yellow mini-rucksack, also bought by Mrs Wright, containing the manuscript of a friend's novel (in which a philosophy student becomes trapped in his own dialogue and ends up in a time-war, naked, talking to Diogenes). On my hands I had placed odd socks. I came direct from the House of Commons, where the prime minister had opened the Gulf war debate.

At the ICA, pitched within a hall, was a small, elegant marquee containing chairs, a grand piano, flasks of chocolate, and a canary in a cage. Those with expensive tickets (£6) were given an 18th-century wig and an identity. I was Carl Thomas, Mozart's son. Simon was Gluck. Bewigged — in suits or jeans —

and trying to remember our identities, all were seated in the marquee. Holders of cheap tickets were allowed to watch through peepholes in its walls.

The play was staged mostly in French (so I didn't understand all) by a group, Le Théâtre de L'Unité, famous for staging a play in a Citroën 2CV. Their small troupe included two opera singers, and a concert pianist appearing as Mozart. The audience was to participate. This was a sort of *This is Your Life* 200th commemoration party for Mozart, organised in another world. Wife, mistress, children he had hardly known, contemporaries and successors, his librettist... all had been invited, to surprise the composer.

Mozart was both surprised and pleased. He played for us, embraced his mistress and shouted at Beethoven, who couldn't hear. Hot chocolate was served. The soprano told rude jokes. Mozart ignored his wife, and the party became rather bad-tempered, for which I partly blame myself: English reserve prevented my kissing my father, Mozart, warmly.

The event ended with everyone (including Mozart) forgetting that he was the world's greatest composer, remembering old, unimportant quarrels, and getting upset.

This was the sort of potentially silly experiment I expected to hate: yet it wholly absorbed me. As we trooped out of the marquee I realised that I had been temporarily transported — but where?

I bought some chocolates, (made according to an 18th-century recipe), put on my crash helmet and cycled down the Strand. The theatres were coming out, and there were people sleeping rough. I bought *The Times* to check my work, decided I had been silly to criticise Mr Major's prose style at a time like this, and studied the pictures of Patriots shooting down Scuds. Reaching home, I ate the chocolate, watered the willow cutting I brought from Ecuador, read a letter written in 1777 by Mozart to his father, and listened to a telephone message from my own father, in Spain.

When I was a boy, nothing seemed to make sense. I hardly expected it to. But when I became a youth I grew impatient to understand the overall picture of which I could only see, I assumed, a part. Experiences came my way: yet with no clue as to how they were linked. Nothing added up. Perhaps this part of my life was for collecting, not yet for interpreting, clues? In a big jigsaw, maybe a handful of random pieces will bear no discernible relation, one to the other? Collect more.

So I went to Cambridge, and Yale; interviewed for M16, joined the diplomatic service; worked for Mrs Thatcher and tried being an MP, then a television presenter; and wrote a book about Peru.

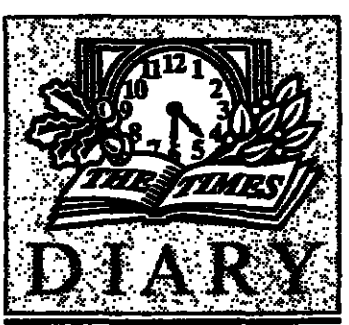
Now (Mrs Wright reminds me as she gives me the crash helmet) I am 41. There is a great heap of jigsaw pieces on the table — many bright colours. But still none fit.

## Ulster rues an Iraqi ruin

While congratulations were heaped on the allied bomber pilots who were reported to have destroyed Saddam Hussein's palace in Baghdad last week, the mood was more sombre in a building yard in Belfast. Many among the 100 employees of Mivan Construction, which Saddam hired to fit out the building, lamented the destruction of what for them had been two years' hard toil. "We were quite sad to hear the news," says Ivan McCabe, the chairman. The palace was finished only on January 6, although all the Irish workers had left before Christmas.



and the firm was not represented at the topping-out ceremony. Mivan's contracts, with a total value of £31 million, included supplying more than 100 bullet-proof windows over an inch thick, facing the building in straw-coloured Seville brick, and finishing the interior in marble. "Saddam looked over the building and made suggestions," says McCabe. "He dropped in about a dozen times in two years and gave instructions to change the height of doors, for example." Should Saddam Hussein with-



draw from Kuwait tomorrow and wish his palace to be rebuilt, Mivan would be ready to oblige, provided the British government had no objection. The company still has an office in Baghdad, staffed by Iraqis. "We are happy to work anywhere that is politically safe and has work to offer," says McCabe. "We are builders, and like building."

## Gang of NWS

Ten years ago this weekend, in the unlikely setting of Limehouse, east London, we were told that the mould was about to be broken. On a leaden-skied Sunday afternoon the Gang of Four emerged from David Owen's Docklands home to issue the declaration that effectively founded the Social Democratic Party. A decade on, the mould is intact, and the gang has been scattered.

Dr Owen alone retains his Commons seat. Roy Jenkins leads the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords, and the two other founder members have left politics. Shirley Williams pursues the paths of academe in America, while Bill Rodgers is director-general of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

A commemorative get-together is not planned, although the anniversary will be much in their minds. Lord Jenkins says: "I am aware of the significance of this

weekend, but am not planning anything special." Rodgers says the acrimonious split with Owen over the merger with the Liberals makes a reunion impossible. "It would be too sharp and, without the whole gang, it would be a hollow occasion." The three without Owen, may instead arrange a wider celebration for all founding SDP members in March.

As for Dr Owen, he will not be at the scene of the original Limehouse Declaration to mark this weekend's anniversary. "He will be at his West Country home," says his office. In any case, it should not really have been the Limehouse Declaration at all, says Rodgers. "The four of us had been meeting at my house for months, and that weekend my wife got fed up and said: 'Can't you meet somewhere else?' So we went to David Owen's. It should have been the Kentish Town Declaration."

With renewed being raised about the ability of airport security machines to detect plastic explosives, a *Times* journalist recalls a visit to Morocco last year. At Tangier airport, departing for home, he realised that two antique silver plates bought in the town were packed in the suitcase that was, at that moment, passing through the X-ray machine. Fearing that he was about to set off a security alert, he confessed his foolishness to a guard. "Don't worry, sir," came the reply. "Our machines will never pick them up." We are reliably told they are now much more efficient.

## Millions on offer

With the escalating costs of war, the defence ministry was delighted to find a forgotten stash of banknotes with a face value of £9 million in its cellars. Alas, the 17 million notes weighing 14 tons, to have been used by the British army in

Europe, are now worth thousands rather than their original millions, but the MoD hopes to raise £30,000 at auction at Phillips on St Valentine's Day.

"The notes were introduced for British troops in Germany to discourage black-market currency speculation after the war," says a Phillips spokesman. "They were used in Berlin until 1977." Many were printed post-decimalisation and run in denominations from £10, £5 and £1 notes down to 10p and 5p. "They are as they would have been received from the printers, still in the original packing in sealed boxes," says Phillips.

But who will buy them? The Imperial War Museum says it is not interested. A Monopoly fanatic wanting to indulge in a little bit of one-upmanship, perhaps?

## Two-way challenge

Richard Rogers, the controversial architect, is to design the new Channel 4 headquarters in Horseferry Road, Westminster. The building, however, will be more conventional than his Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Lloyd's building in London. "It won't have the plumbing on the outside," says a source who has seen the plans.

Rogers was chosen by Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, who wants to add to London's architectural achievements without, reportedly, arousing Prince Charles's wrath, as the BBC did with its White City building.

Rogers hardly appears the best choice to please the heir to the throne. The architectural world is convinced that it was the prince's intervention that led to Rogers' nosier Square development at St Paul's. Rogers responded with an article in *The Times* shortly after, in which he attacked the prince's interventions in planning enquiries as "undemocratic".















# The art of design by application

## Assets

New for the Nineties is a design trend that has its roots in a much older tradition. Prints are the latest interior decorating story, whether original or reproduction, hand-coloured or black and white, applied to walls, screens, fabrics or ceramics.

Fashionable in 18th century English homes, prints of architectural plans and elevations, botanical prints and drawings of furniture and statuary are in favour again, with collectors eager to adorn living rooms and hallways with borders and friezes.

Only a handful of original print rooms remain intact, and among the best references are the restored print rooms at Heveningham Hall, Suffolk, and Castleown House, County Kildare, Ireland. However, with more of us living in smaller homes, the concept of setting aside a special room for such treasures is often diluted into the creation of a print "corner", or the application of this singular style of decoration to dining-room or corridor walls.

Prints are also spilling over on to ceramics and fabrics. Old prints are appearing on dinner plates — £25 each, and coffee mugs £8.50 each, from Timney Fowler, 388 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 6562). Bone china cups decorated with sporting prints are sold by London stores including Harrods, Thomas Goode and the General Trading Company.

"Architecture is no longer an esoteric subject. You have only to look at stage sets on television quiz programmes to see the influence of architectural references. Ten years ago there was hardly any popular interest in architecture. Now people are much more visually aware, especially those involved in restoring Victorian or Edwardian homes," says Denise Outlaw who, with her husband, Chris, runs London's Arc Gallery, which specialises in reproduction prints.

"Botanical prints have never really gone out of fashion and we are seeing considerably more interest in architectural plans and elevations, which people are buying to decorate halls and dining-rooms."

Arc stocks around 250 different images, all reproductions of 17th to 19th century prints. These include buildings, elevations, statues, vases, friezes, Chippendale furniture and botanical prints. They range in price from about £7 for a small black and white or coloured botanical print on acid-free book paper, to about £80 for



The "print" look: Nicola Wingate-Saul, an interior designer, says there has been so much interest recently in decorative wall finishes that people are looking for other techniques

a large hand-coloured print. A new range of architectural prints, available in February, will include London buildings and squares, friezes from the Elgin Marbles, Pompeian ruins and some of Raphael's illustrations.

Anyone wanting to create a print room or nook in their home may be in for a surprise. Nicola Wingate-Saul, the interior designer, says: "It's much more fiddly and complicated than you might think. Borders have to be mitred and the prints need to be backed before alignment. If you do not pay attention to little details like these the effect can be ruined."

As well as assisting in the restoration of the print rooms at Heveningham Hall and Castleown, Ms Wingate-Saul has created print rooms for the Sitwell family home at Remishaw Hall in Derbyshire, and for Desmond

Guinness at Leixlip Castle, County Kildare.

She also makes wooden screens to order, with two-way cloth hinges, decorated with original prints (from £600). Decorative printed borders — copies of 18th century originals and some she has adapted from other border designs — cost from £2 for about 26in (69cm) varying in width and length.

Why are prints becoming so popular? Ms Wingate-Saul says: "There has been so much interest in decorative wall finishes — from stencilling to rag rolling — that people are looking for a new technique. Prints are much less pricey than original paintings."

### NICOLE SWENGLEY

● Arc Gallery, 26 North Street, Clapham Old Town, London SW4 (071-720 1628). Nicola Wingate-Saul (071-821 1577). By appointment only.

● Andrew Edmunds, 44 Lexington Street, W1R 3LH (071-437 8594). Drawings and caricatures, mainly from the 18th century.

● Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1X 4BA (071-629 6176). Old Master and modern prints.

● Berkeley Square Gallery, 23A Bruton Street, W1X 7DA (071-493 7939). Master prints of the 19th and 20th century, including Picasso, Miró, Chagall, Hockney, Warhol, Renoir, Tissot, Pissarro.

● Christopher Mendez, 58 Jermyn Street, SW1Y 6LP (071-491 0015). Comprehensive stock of Old Master prints from 16th to 19th century.

● Flowers Graphics, Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, E8 3NJ (081-985 3333). Contemporary British prints by artists

such as Patrick Hughes, Amanda Faulkner, Michael Rothenstein, Tom Phillips. Its Print of the Month club offers discounts of up to a third for yearly purchases of four or more prints.

● Frederick Mulder, 83 Belsize Park Gardens, NW3 4NJ (071-722 2105). Fine Old Master and modern prints and books.

● Gordon Cooke, 112 Princes House, Kensington Park Road, W11 3BW (071-221 2104). By appointment only. Late 19th and 20th century British prints and drawings, including prints by Graham Sutherland, Palmer, Whistler, Sickert, Copley, Ravilious, Nevinson and Brammer.

● Lumley Cazzell, 24 Davies Street, W1Y 1LH (071-491 4767).

European prints of the 19th and 20th century, including Braque, Chagall, Hockney, Matisse, Miró, Moore, Picasso, Pissarro.

● Marlborough Graphics, 42 Dover Street, W1X 3RB (071-495 2642). Contemporary 20th century prints, including Matisse.

● Waddington Graphics, 16 Clifford Street, W1X 1RG (071-439 1866). Prints by Braque, Chagall, Matisse, Picasso, Moore, Miró, Kitaj, Hockney, Warhol. Publishers of prints by Caulfield, Frink and Hodgkin, among others.

● Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1X 2HL (071-734 1732). British prints and monotypes.

● Robert Downes, 4 Henrietta Street, WC2E 4QU (071-836 0771). Fine prints, all periods.

## Events in town

### THIS WEEKEND

● English silver treasures from the Kremlin: Elizabethan and Stuart silver from the Kremlin's Armoury Museum — most of it presented to Ivan the Terrible and his successors to ease relations between the tsars, Queen Elizabeth I and her successors. *Somebody's*, 34-36 New Bond Street, W1. Today and Mon 10am-5pm, tomorrow noon-5pm, free.

● Old operating theatre open day: Opportunity to look over St Thomas's medieval hospital, with a lecture on its history, 2.30pm. *Old Operating Theatre Museum, 9a St Thomas Street, SE1*. Today 12.30-4pm, £1, child/student 60p (071-955 4791 or 081-906 4325).

● Beatrix Potter's archaeological paintings: Water colours of Roman and post-Roman finds. *Museum of London, London Wall, EC2* (071-600 3699). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 2-6pm, free.

● Winter weekend lecture: Second in the series of four lectures about the pre-Raphaelites. Today: William Holman Hunt. *Sessions House lecture theatre, Museum of Labour History, Liverpool*. Today 1pm. Free tickets from Walker Art Gallery.

● Charles I commemoration: Annual wreath-laying ceremony and service enacted by the King's Army, the royalist wing of the English Civil War Society, to remember the king's death on January 30, 1649. *March leaves St James's Palace, SW1, tomorrow 11.30am, for Whitehall, via the Mall*.

● World of water colours and drawings: Sale of more than 2,000 works from the 16th century onwards. Also, loan exhibition of British cartoons. *Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W1*. Today, tomorrow 11am-7pm, £8.

● Durham weekend walks: Today, "A Different Durham": meet at Wood and Watson car park, Gillesgate, 2pm. Tomorrow, "Ups and Downs near Durham City": meet Broompark picnic area 10am.

### NEXT WEEK

● Garden plants from the Himalayas: Third National Trust lecture in the 1991 series. *Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1*. Mon 6pm, £4.50 (bookings 071-928 8800).

● RHS flower show: Ornamental plant competition and exhibition of botanical paintings. Also (on Tuesday at 2.30pm) a lecture by Stephen Anderson on "Monck's Masterpiece: Restoration of the Gardens of Belsay, Northumbria". *Royal Horticultural Society Hall, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, SW1*. Tues 11am-7pm (23), Wed 10am-5pm (23). Lecture free (information 071-834 4333).

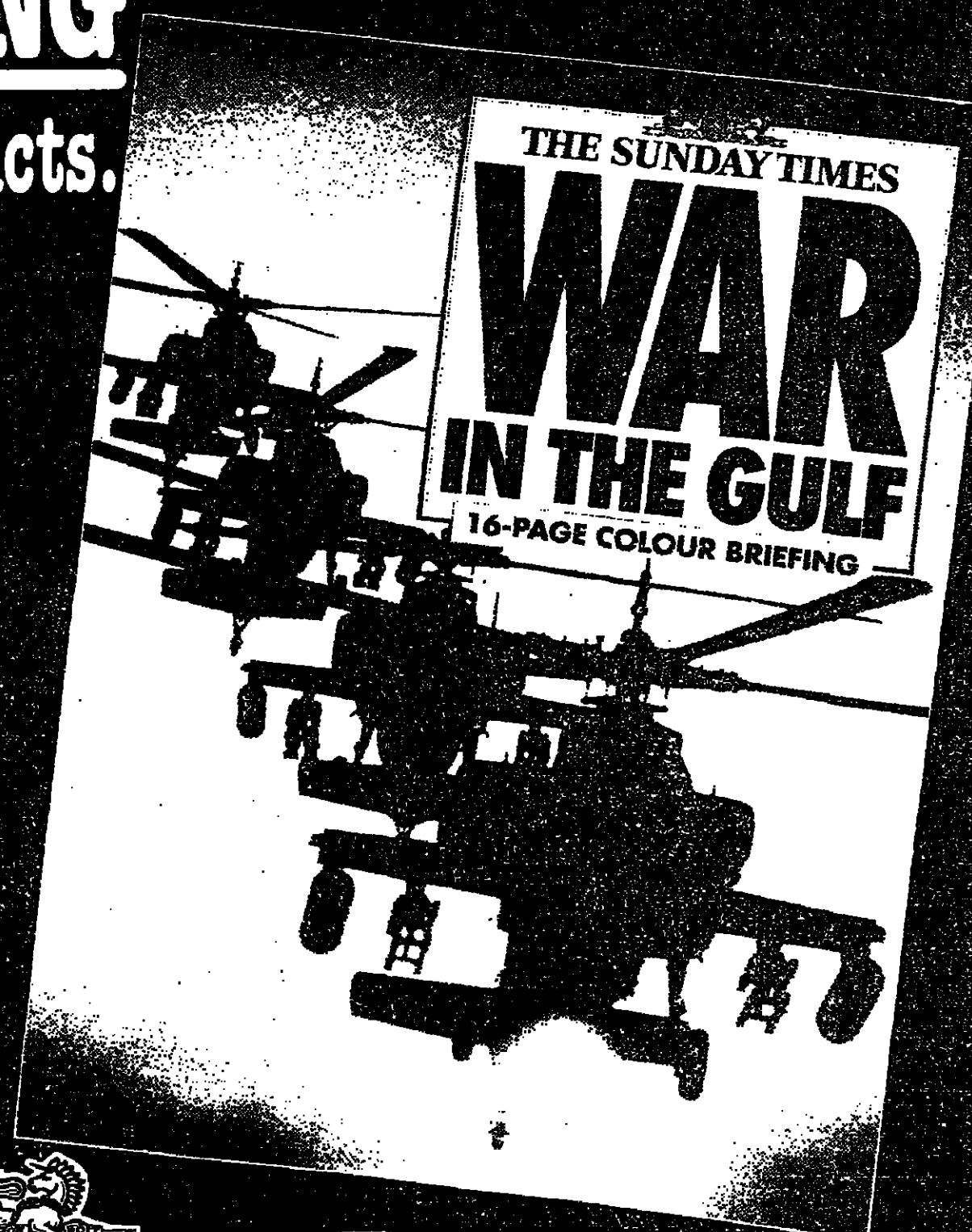
● RSPB auction: The work of 80 of Britain's leading artists, including Sir Hugh Casson, Quentin Blake, Gerald Scarle, Keith Shackleton, Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Wed 7pm. Viewing tomorrow noon-5pm, Mon 9am-7pm, Tues-Wed 9am-6pm.

JUDY FROSHAUGH

## A 16 PAGE BRIEFING

The coverage, the analysis, the facts.

- \* The chronology of the war
- \* Saddam Hussein in profile
- \* Iraq's history
- \* The logistics of modern warfare
- \* The weapons: tanks, helicopters, aircraft, missiles
- \* The threat of chemical warfare
- \* The Israeli - Palestine question in focus
- \* The key military figures



THE SUNDAY TIMES  
THIS SUNDAY



## Breeding

## Beasts with all the looks

THE Countess of Kintore was given her first Highland cow for Christmas, 1972. Today she manages a fold (herd) at her husband's family home, Keith Hall, near Inverurie in Aberdeenshire.

She fell in love with Highlanders, as they are known, purely for their looks. "They are such an attractive breed and the calves look just like big teddy bears." But for all its looks, it is an extremely hardy beef animal, considered by many to be the best beef of all.

"They are extremely good calvers and very good-natured," Lady Kintore says. "Although if one turns suddenly and gets you with a one-and-a-half foot horn, it will hurt. They have been known to calve up to 30 years old."

Being a domesticated wild animal, naturally selected for the climate, the Highlander is overwintered out of doors. "But they do not like hot weather. They can contract pneumonia," says Lady Kintore.

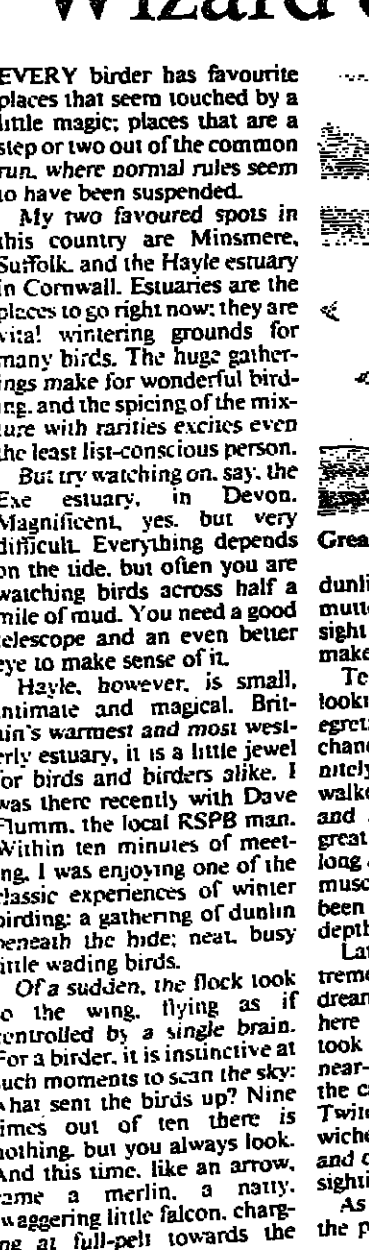
They live on silage and straw during the winter and grass in summer. The heifers are sold for breeding at about two years old and the stots (castrated males) at around three for the plate.

"They are slower-growing than most cattle, but the meat is marvellous and marbled, which is what butchers look for," Lady Kintore says. Highlanders come in a range of colours from almost pure white to brindle and even black. Shows and sales for the breed are held at Oban, Strathclyde, each February and October.

Highlanders have become increasingly popular in Europe. Last year, 1,000 head were exported for breeding. In Bavaria they are seen as a suitable replacement for dairy cattle on small farms hit by EC milk quotas.

Although prices have fallen in recent months, as with all beef cattle, a fold of 40 Highlanders recently sold for an average of £1,400 per animal.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON  
© Highland Cattle Society, Campsie Mill, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire DG3 5HD.



## Country events

**THIS WEEKEND**  
 • **Craft in Action 51:** Demonstrations and craft items for sale. National Trust shop and deer park open. Dunham Massey Hall, Atrincham, Cheshire. Today, Tomorrow 10am-3.30pm, free.  
 • **Walks:** Today, a five-mile natural history and archaeological walk exploring the parish of Bewcastle; meet Bewcastle Church, East Cumbria, 1pm; wear strong boots. Tomorrow, a three-mile easy family walk; meet at the Bull's Head, Blackpool, south of Huddersfield, 1.30pm. "A refuge for water fowl", a bird-watching walk around the William Gilling water; meet King George Sailing Club, car park, Lea Valley Road, Chingford.



"We're happy to be lots, or just us": Caroline Charles and her husband, Malcolm Valentine, spend most weekends at their Hampshire cottage

## A comfortable retreat

Caroline Charles, the clothes designer, says of her country home: "It's the typical English cottage as perceived by Americans, with apple trees making not exactly an avenue up the front path."

Miss Charles and her husband, Malcolm Valentine, who runs an environmental consultancy called Market Ecology, live near their business headquarters in Knightsbridge during the week. They bought their white-painted cottage five years ago and go to it most weekends. It is one of a row of three by the church in a farming village in Hampshire, near Newbury. "The house is in two bits," Miss Charles says, "apparently built in the mid 1800s."

The couple had been renting a house in nearby Coombe for 11 years when they heard that the cottage was for sale. "We looked at it in a downpour and, although it had been a freezing spring, the daffodils on the path were in full blaze. It seemed to be perfect; accessible to London and wonderful country. You can walk for pretty well nine miles in every direction and it's all downs and woods, not built up at all." Also in its favour was that, after a few initial adjustments, the cottage did not need a lot of attention.

"I was flying to Japan the next

day," Miss Charles says. "I told the solicitor I wanted the cottage by the time I got back. He muttered something about searches. I said 'Forget all that, just do it.' Then I rang the bank manager and said 'It's your lucky day; you're going to be allowed to lend me some more money.' When I got back from Japan a week later, it was all done."

She and her husband found a talented craftsman/engineer/builder. "He changed the heating to the sort that goes on at the touch of a button, and moved a wall or two. The dining-room was two rooms. He rearranged the space and the garden to suit us."

Although the three-bedroom house can sleep seven, as many as ten have stayed, using camp beds. The table seats ten, but there is only one bathroom and two lavatories.

"We're very happy to be lots, or just us," Miss Charles says. "In the summer people come here often. In the winter it's nice to sit by the open fire in the sitting-room. Both of us work quite a bit at the big table." They often lend the cottage to their two grown-up children and their friends, or to members

of Miss Charles's staff. The cottage is easy to run, and very simple inside. The ceilings are so low that people tend to bump their heads on the beams. There are pots of geraniums on the windowsills and Sunday papers scattered on the floor. The place feels very lived in.

"The whole thing is painted Barley White. I think it's called," Miss Charles says. "It craves a bedhead and pictures but I never get round to doing it."

The window looks over the half-acre garden, and the valley beyond. "The view is an addition to my life, and the garden is rewarding. Malcolm does the vegetables. I do the flowers. It's a very obliging, friendly place."

"We've never spent proper time on the house. It's not meant to be a holiday home or a corporate statement, but a different place to spend your life two days a week. Maybe, as we expand into Europe, the business will acquire a house in Italy or France that will take the corporate image. But for the moment the Caroline Charles HQ is in the renovated house in Beauchamp Place, where we have the shop. We do some business entertaining at home in London, but the cottage is a very private place. I love it here."

"I've never had a fitted kitchen until now," Miss Charles says. "I inherited this one. The hob is set into the cupboards. It's terribly modern." A Fifties chrome and

*"It's a very obliging, friendly place"*

glass Magimix that once belonged to her grandmother sits on the sideboard. Beside it is an old-fashioned toaster. The fridge is painted gold and decorated with stars, the work of the couple's daughter Kate, a 24-year-old actress.

Upstairs, the three bedrooms are plain but inviting. "Our room is particularly white and blank," Miss Charles says. "It craves a bedhead and pictures but I never get round to doing it."

The window looks over the half-acre garden, and the valley beyond. "The view is an addition to my life, and the garden is rewarding. Malcolm does the vegetables. I do the flowers. It's a very obliging, friendly place."

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CANDIDA CREWE

## Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

## Memories of war darken the land

A FEW days before the Gulf war broke out a note came through the door to tell us that, because of the gravity of the situation, the church would be open for prayer and its floodlights (kept for special occasions) would remain switched on. At the moment, our village has no vicar and so the gesture comes from deep within the hearts of the worried parishioners, many of whom remember the war of 50 years ago.

The old farmworkers who stroll along our lane and pause for a chat when they see me at plough have spoken often of war in recent months. The commemorative Battle of Britain fly-past in the summer lined up more or less directly over our farm for the flight into London. Scores came out to watch. I had a pair of carthorses pulling harrows that

production which was to turn into an addition.

No doubt it was right at the time, but to those with a modern eye it seems grotesque to boast, as this booklet does, that "the South Downs, unfarmed since Saxon times, are now under the plough", or "Feltwell Fen, a place of water, dykes and yellow reeds. Now the dykes have been cleared, the reeds replaced by acres of lush wheat."

The chapter headed "Reclaiming the Bad Lands" would make any 1991 conservationist feel faint. Within 30 years, the farming heroes became the villains as calls for even more efficiency brought about the destruction of marsh, hedge, heath and woodland. One of my older visitors used to drive a powerful caterpillar tractor. "Smash anything up, that would," he told me. "I worked all round here. All them hedges that's gone. I pulled 'em all out. Now I suppose you'll be puttin' 'em all back. I can't tell you how many ponds I've bulldozed. Hundreds. Thousands of trees I pulled out."



This is a bewildering time. The old farmworkers see farmland that they fought to keep fertile now being encouraged to lie fallow under the European scheme to reduce the amount of food we produce. Not five miles away, good wheat-growing

land is being planted with gorse to enhance a new golf course. There are few animals in this arable area, but now we read that experts are advising farmers to consider mixed farming with a bit of corn, a few head of cattle, a flock of sheep and, perhaps, pigs — farming just as it used to be.

The last generation were taught that such old-fashioned practices could lead only to ruin. The new generation is being warned that the bandwagon that started rolling at the outbreak of war is finally coming to a halt. The old boys say farming is coming full circle, and from which they started when they went to war. "Why," they say, "there's even someone up the lane ploughing his land with horses!"

And most of them would be overjoyed to think that the past might come again, were it not for the church remaining open for prayer, and the ominous floodlights blazing.

## Feather report

## Wizard day, thanks to merlin

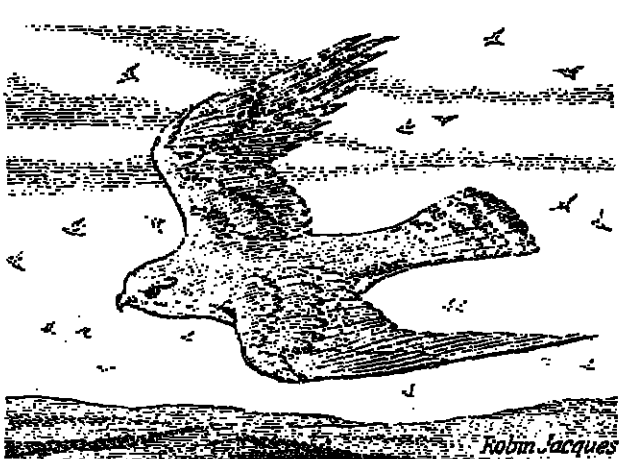
EVERY birder has favourite places that seem touched by a little magic; places that are a step or two out of the common run, where normal rules seem to have been suspended.

My two favoured spots in this country are Minsmere, Suffolk, and the Hayle estuary in Cornwall. Estuaries are the places to go right now: they are vital wintering grounds for many birds. The huge gatherings make for wonderful birding, and the spicing of the mixture with rarities excites even the least list-conscious person.

But try watching on, say, the Eze estuary, in Devon. Magnificent, yes, but very difficult. Everything depends on the tide, but often you are watching birds across half a mile of mud. You need a good telescope and an even better eye to make sense of it.

Hayle, however, is small, intimate and magical. Britain's warmest and most westerly estuary, it is a little jewel for birds and birders alike. I was there recently with Dave Flumm, the local RSPB man. Within ten minutes of meeting, I was enjoying one of the classic experiences of winter birding: a gathering of dunlin beneath the tide; neat, busy little wading birds.

Of a sudden, the flock took to the wing, flying as if controlled by a single brain. For a birder, it is instinctive at such moments to scan the sky: what sent the birds up? Nine times out of ten there is nothing, but you always look. And this time, like an arrow, came a merlin, a natty, swaggering little falcon, changing at full-pelt towards the



Great bird scarer: the merlin, a natty, swaggering little falcon

dunlin, missing, and flying off muttering curses to itself. The sight was good enough to make any birder day.

Ten minutes later, I was looking at all things, a little egret: a small white heron, a chance arrival and quite definitely a "rare bird". We walked on around the estuary, and Mr Flumm found me a great northern diver, sitting long and low in the water — a muscular, active bird that has been found fishing furiously at depths of more than 250ft.

Later, we spotted an extreme rarity, a twitcher's dream: a ring-billed gull, blown here from America. The bird took little finding; it is now a near-permanent resident in the car park at Hayle library. Twitchers lure it with sandwiches into "ticking" range, and can legitimately mark the sighting in their note book. As we turned back towards the pub, 500 birds got up on

the far side of the estuary. We scanned the sky: no falcon this time. The birds separated: 300 lapwing and — was this the sight of the day? — 200 golden plover, flying, yes, as if controlled by a single brain. One moment showing their pale underwings, the next turning into the sun and allowing the muted gold of their backs to shine across at us.

HAYLE appeared to be threatened by development, under the ambitions of Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur. The place is now, almost safe. Recently the local council planning committee approved Mr de Savary's plans, which were drawn up in consultation with the RSPB. Assuming the decision is rubber-stamped by the full council at the end of the month, the estuary will transfer to the RSPB for a nominal sum within six months, and Mr de Savary

will get on with his environmentally friendly development of its shores when circumstances are right. This will include operating sluices in the harbour, which will improve conditions for birds.

The matter does not rest there. Conservation can never rest. Hayle's richness comes from its smallness and its accessibility, two things that have made it a honeypot for human bait-diggers. In such a small place, the diggers do a lot of damage. For a start, their presence stops the birds feeding. Then the holes the diggers make destroy the feeding grounds. They have taken so many invertebrates from the mud that its value as a food source is rapidly diminishing. Bait-digging is against the by-laws, but getting the by-laws enforced is another matter, and one the RSPB will tackle (primarily through education) when it assumes control.

Hayle is a wonderful place, and it is pleasing to hear that it has been saved. But conservation never seems to give you a matter for uncomplicated rejoicing. Every perfect moment seems to emphasize the fragility of what we have left. Wild birds need wild places: both are getting rarer.

SIMON BARNES

• **What's about: Birds** — watch out for skin among redpolls, and northern European finches such as the brambling. Twitchers — lesser scaup at Dumfries and Galloway; hoopoe at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire; surf scoter at Pansam, Cymru. Details from Birdline on 0898 700222.

Essex; booking essential (0992 713838).

• **"Low Coniscliffe Village and a ramble by the Tees"** with a local geographer and historian; meet Baydale Back Inn, near Coniscliffe, County Durham, 2pm, 8pm, child 40p. "Morton's Magic", a five-mile walk with a local Nature Conservancy Council warden, exploring the natural history of the area; meet at the Fellgate, Morton Village, East Cumbria, 10am, 2pm, child 50p.

• **Holiday on Ice 91:** Last chance to see the ice spectacular "Around the World in 80 Days". Brighton Centre, Kings Road, Brighton, East Sussex. Today 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. Tomorrow 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. £6.50-£9.50. £3.25-£4.75. Booking on 0273 202851.

**NEXT WEEK**  
 • **Garden walk:** Guided tour of the 63-acre garden of the Northern Horticultural

Society, interesting at all times of the year. Shop and plants for sale. Harrow Carr Gardens, Cragg Lane, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Mon 2pm. Booking on 0423 565418.

• **Perseus gardening demonstrations:** A progressive course of workshops about the pruning of fruit trees begins this Thursday, 2pm-4pm; then the following two Thursdays at the same time. Parshore College of Horticulture, Avonbank, Worcester; £12 for the three workshops (RHS members), £24 (non-members). Booking on 0586 532443.

• **Cheltenham lecture:** Steven Blake gives a talk with slides on the medieval war paintings in Gloucestershire churches. Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Mon 1.10pm, free.

JUDY FROSHAUGH

## SHOPAROUND

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## THE ORIGINAL BRETON SHIRT

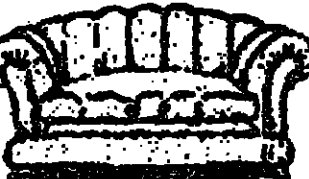
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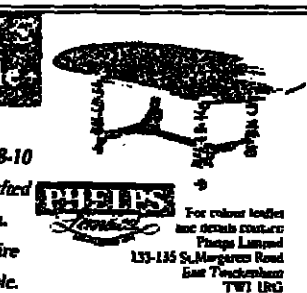


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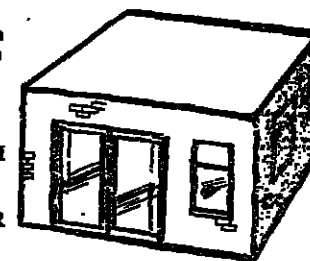
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## BBC1

- 7.00 Breakfast News with reports on the situation in the Gulf  
 7.10 Lassie. Animated adventures of the celebrated collie (r) 7.30  
 Babar. Classic children's story about an elephant  
 8.00 Breakfast News  
 9.00 Gorm Live! Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield present the  
 children's magazine with cartoons. Jonathan King's video vote for  
 the forthcoming Brit Awards, a location report with *Bergara's*  
 John Nettles and Jonathan Porritt with this month's edition of  
*Greenland*. Other guests include round-the-world yachtswoman  
 Tracey Edwards and pop group Soho 12 12 Weather  
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is  
 (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of the FA Cup  
 fourth round; 12.40 Cricket: highlights of the second day's play in  
 the game at Adelaide between Australia and England; 1.05 News;  
 1.10, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.55 Racing from Cheltenham; 1.25 Skiing:  
 world championships from Seefeld, Austria, featuring the  
 women's downhill; 2.00 and 2.35 Squash: the Fight for Sight  
 national championships from Newcastle; 3.10 Hockey: the Royal  
 Bank indoor championships from Crystal Palace; 3.50 Football:  
 half-times; 4.00 Ice Skating: the European figure skating  
 championships from Sofia 4.40 Final Score  
 5.05 News with More Stuart  
 5.35 Regional news and sport  
 5.40 Cartoon  
 5.50 Jim'll Fix It. More viewers' dreams are fulfilled by Jimmy Savile,  
 including two children's wish to visit all the places on the Monopoly  
 board. (Ceefax)  
 6.25 'Allo 'Allo! Camp comedy about members of the French  
 Resistance René and Edith have fled to England in place of the  
 British army, so Farney and Leclerc are looking after the café.  
 Starring Gordon Kaye and Carmen Silvera. (Ceefax)



Falling to resist: Gordon Kaye and Carmen Silvera (6.25pm)

- 6.55 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. More magical moments with Paul  
 Daniels plus guests Swedish magician, Johnny Linn and juggler  
 Jaci Endres Jr (Ceefax)  
 7.40 *Bergara's*. The Evil That Men Do. Ex-detective Jim Bergara  
 conveniently finds himself in the midst of yet another crime when  
 he advertises in the local paper as a private investigator. Reformulated  
 burglar Eddie Lyle asks Jim for help when he is suspected of  
 murdering Lady Harriet Mallin. Starring John Nettles and Terence  
 Alexander. (Ceefax)  
 8.30 Don't Wait Up. Lightweight, and quite harmless, comedy series  
 about a father and son who are both doctors. Father has problems  
 with one of his patients and son has trouble affording his medical  
 insurance. Starring Tony Britton and Nigel Havers. (Ceefax)  
 9.00 News (Ceefax), sport and weather  
 9.40 Midnight Caller. Wrong Side of the Wall. Gary Cole stars as the  
 ex-cop who has swapped his beat for a late-night radio show, and  
 now fights crime from his studio. He helps a convict who is finding  
 life in the big world much harder than he did in the clinic. (Ceefax)  
 10.30 The Full Wax. The manic Ruby Wax (not everybody's favourite)  
 and fellow expectant mother Jennifer Saunders co-host Ruby's  
 girls chat show with June Brown (*EastEnders*!) Doll popping in  
 to help make banana pie. Soap star Katharine Holmwood also makes  
 an appearance to talk about young men  
 11.00 Match of the Day. The Road To Wembley. Desmond Lynam  
 presents highlights from three of the day's FA Cup fourth round  
 ties. The commentators are John Motson, Tony Gubba and Gerald  
 Sinstadt  
 12.00 News  
 12.20 European Figure Skating Championships. Barry Davies  
 presents highlights of this week's competition in Sofia, with a look  
 at this afternoon's free dance finale  
 1.00 News and weather. Ends at 1.10

## BBC2

- 9.00 Open University  
 10.55 War in the Gulf. News, comment and analysis  
 12.15 Film: *Kitty Foyle* (1940, b/w). Ginger Rogers put aside her dancing  
 shoes for her role in this film, and won an Oscar for her efforts. She  
 plays a Philadelphia girl from town with two men — one her new  
 doctor sweetheart, the other her former husband. The film tells the  
 story of Kitty's life through flashback sequences and reveals her  
 troubled love life and the heartaches and happiness of the past.  
 The film was hugely popular at the time of its release, although it  
 resembles a soap opera too much to leave a lasting impression.  
 Also stars James Craig and Dennis Morgan. Directed by Sam  
 Wood  
 1.55 Under the Sun. The Shaman and His Apprentices. Shaman Jose,  
 healer and sorcerer, looks after his people in the Peruvian Amazon  
 and is shown preparing to initiate his apprentice into a knowledge  
 of the spirit world (r). (Ceefax)  
 2.45 Gulf News  
 4.05 Film: *Song of Norway* (1970). A musical biography of the  
 Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, starring Torvald Maustad,  
 Florence Henderson and (of all people) Harry Secombe. The film  
 traces Grieg's life from his early days struggling for success in  
 Norway to his later triumphs and the realisation that he has become  
 alienated from his wife and his friends. (Sometimes tells the truth  
 about Grieg, much of the scenery is breathtakingly beautiful.  
 Directed by Andrew L. Stone  
 6.25 Twin Peaks. David Lynch's cult whodunit continues to baffle and  
 confuse. The mystery surrounding Laura's murder takes a  
 surprising turn. Donna encounters somebody with most unusual  
 insights and Blackie O'Reilly sees a golden opportunity. With Kyle  
 MacLachlan and Michael Ontkean. (Ceefax)  
 7.10 News  
 7.25 Coast to Coast. A tribute to celebrated fell walker and author  
 A.W. Wainwright who died earlier this week (r)



A literary authority on fell-walking: A.W. Wainwright (7.25pm)

- 7.55 All Clouds Are Clocks. A 1975 documentary which examines the  
 work of contemporary Hungarian composer, György Ligeti (r)  
 9.00 French and Saunders. More comedy from Dawn French and  
 Jennifer Saunders. Special guests include Lynn Faulds Wood and  
 Maggie Philbin (r)  
 9.30 John Sessions' Tall Tales: The Glory and the Dream.  
 CHOICE: Sessions continues to prove that, as a physical and  
 verbal juggler, he has few peers. In any, a jark of the head, a lift of  
 a shoulder, a jacking up or deflating of the voice, and Sessions is  
 no longer the captain of an American jet touching down at  
 Heathrow, but a couple of unspeakable US tourists ("Piccadilly  
 Circus? So what? It's Times Square with a jagged in the middle,  
 holding a bow and arrow"), or the ghastly Shakespearean, button-  
 holding the American director of *Forrest Gump*. The  
 argument is that a classic provides its own context, and stands or  
 falls on its own merits. It's a theory that *A Generation* weakens  
 because to appreciate fully its importance in cinema history, it  
 is essential to understand that this tale of young resistance workers  
 during the German occupation of Warsaw brought Polish cinema  
 its first triumph in neo-realism. Roman Polanski, who appears in the  
 film's opening episode, goes further. "The whole Polish cinema,  
 he has said, " began with *A Generation*". The other two films in  
 Wajda's famous trilogy — *Kanals* and *Ashes and Diamonds* — will be  
 screened during the next two weeks. Ends at 1.10am

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am with news reports from the Gulf until 8.05 when children's  
 entertainment begins, introduced by Mike Brosnan  
 9.25 Motormouth presented by Andy Crane, Neil Buchanan and Gaby  
 Roslin. All the usual games, competitions and cartoons, plus  
 special guests, who include Linda Layton and Mena Mcke. There  
 is also a visit to the *Spitting Image* show  
 11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The *Village* Video slot features Don Henley  
 12.30 Saint & Gravelle. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves discuss the  
 prospects for the weekend's fourth-round FA Cup matches. They  
 also examine action north of the border and see how the Tennents  
 Scottish Cup is progressing  
 1.00 News and weather 1.25 LWT News and weather  
 1.30 Grand Sportsmasters. Dickie Davies hosts the popular sporting  
 quiz in which past winners compete for the title of Grand  
 Sportsmaster  
 2.00 World Sport Special. A round-up of the week's main sports  
 stories, plus a look back at a moment of sporting history  
 2.30 The Day. An important 24 hours in the life of a member of the  
 public  
 2.35 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records introduced by  
 David Frost  
 3.00 Film: *Flood!* (1978) starring Robert Culp, Barbara Hershey, Roddy  
 McDowell and Teresa Wright. A made-for-television disaster movie  
 about a hard-boiled helicopter pilot who is reluctantly pressed into  
 action when the lives of wealthy tourists staying in a hunting lodge  
 are threatened by a bursting dam. Directed by Earl Bellamy  
 4.45 ITN News and weather  
 5.00 Razz! TV Chart Show. The *Peak* Classic Music  
 5.10 LWT News and weather  
 5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210: One on One. Young people's drama series.  
 Brenda hopes that it will be a case of third time lucky as far as  
 learning to drive is concerned. Brandon thinks that his main rival  
 for a place on the high-school basketball team isn't good enough  
 to be chosen but he is later proved completely wrong. (Oracle)  
 6.10 Catchphrase. Roy Walker hosts another edition of the fast-  
 moving, high-tech computer quiz game in which contestants are  
 given the chance to win big money prizes  
 6.40 Blind Date. Cilla Black helps another couple get together for a  
 special date, but will there be marriage or tears on the horizon?  
 (Oracle)  
 7.45 Inspector Morse: Driven to Distraction. The erudite, Oxford-  
 based real-life sleuth, Chief Insp. Morse, falls out with his sergeant  
 over police procedure while they investigate the murder of a young  
 woman near a garage and driving school complex. Starring John  
 Thaw and Kevin Whately (r). (Oracle)  
 9.45 News and weather 11.25 LWT Weather



In conversation with Michael Aspel: Jeremy Irons (10.20pm)

- 10.20 Aspel & Company. Michael Aspel is joined by thespians  
 Francesca Annis, Jimmy Mulville and Jeremy Irons  
 11.05 Mike and the Patrons. Snowed out. American crime series starring  
 Joe Penny and William Conrad  
 12.00 ITN Gulf News Report. Bulletins, analysis and comment  
 throughout the night. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Art of Landscape. Film of the natural world accompanied by  
 soothing music 7.00 Trans World Sport  
 8.00 Channel 4 Daily with overnight reports from the Gulf  
 9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line. A preview of the day's  
 racing  
 9.25 Sing and Swing. Jazz from the stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)  
 9.30 Listening Eye: Signs of Our Times. Documentary series covering  
 the lives and experiences of the hearing impaired. A visit to  
 the Doncaster College for the Deaf, and a report on the vocational  
 training available to young deaf people (r)  
 10.00 Matters of Taste: A Tale of Two Cities. Jancis Robinson  
 continues her series of programmes on food and drink by  
 comparing what is to be found on the dinner tables of twinned  
 towns — Narbonne in the south of France and Salford in Greater  
 Manchester (r). (Teletext)  
 10.30 Film: *Little Tough Guys in Society* (1938, b/w). One of a series of  
 B pictures originally created in response to the series of films  
 featuring the Dead End Kids and later giving rise to the Bowery  
 Boys. This one sees the motley crew of delinquents invited to a  
 long island mansion by the mother of a spoiled brat in order to teach  
 her kid a lesson or two. Predictable comic mayhem ensues.  
 Starring Frankie Thomas, Harris Berger and Charles Duncan.  
 Directed by Eric C. Kanton. 11.55 The Three Stooges in *Half Shot*  
 Shooters (b/w)  
 12.15 Enchanted Island. A film celebrating the beauties of the Pacific  
 island of Samoa  
 12.30 American Football: Red 42. A preview of tomorrow's Super Bowl  
 presented by Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imlach (r)  
 1.00 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster. Brought Scott introduces live  
 coverage of the 1.10, 1.40, 2.10 and 2.40 races  
 3.00 Film: *I See a Dark Stranger* (1945, b/w). Deborah Kerr is an Irish  
 girl whose sworn hatred of the British leads her into collaboration with  
 a Nazi master spy (Raymond Huntley). Polished comedy thriller co-  
 starring Trevor Howard and directed by Frank Launder  
 5.05 Brookside Omnibus. Soap set in a Merseyside close (r).  
 (Teletext)  
 6.30 Right To Reply. David Wickham, executive producer of Thames  
 TV's *Stolen Children: Argentina's Darkest War*, answers a viewer's  
 criticism of very disturbing scenes in the programme. Plus a BBC  
 executive justifies the BBC's extensive coverage of the war in the Gulf  
 7.00 The World This Week with the latest news on the war in the Gulf  
 and a look at what broadcasters in Israel, Jordan, France and  
 America think about their own coverage of the Gulf war. Followed  
 by Weather  
 8.00 Icewalk. The story of an expedition undertaken by eight men from  
 seven countries, led by British explorer Robert Swan, across the  
 roof of the world to the North Pole. The adventure, a 500 mile trek  
 that took 56 days — encountered some of the worst Arctic  
 conditions ever recorded  
 9.00 LA Law. Swiss American drama series about a Los Angeles law  
 firm. (Teletext)



Fifties bed-sit land: Anita Graham and Ian Jentle (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Small Stages: Mr Thomas.  
 CHOICE: In terms of making optimum use of what television  
 offers, *Small Stages* must be counted as reactionary. These plays,  
 up to now seen only on the alternative theatre circuit, turn up on  
 the small screen with substantially the original sets and casts.  
 This, despite the combined tedium of seasoned and tired  
 television directors, explains the occasional lapse into staginess  
 which happens again tonight in this otherwise grippingly realistic  
 performance of Kathy Burke's darkish comedy about some  
 precarious relationships in a 1950s London bed-sit involving  
 sexually repressed lady (Anita Graham, definitely an actress to  
 watch), heterosexual and homosexual lodgers (James Cloyde, Ray  
 Winstone) and their mismatched friends (Oliver Smith, Ian Jentle).  
 The occasional recourse to coarseness is regrettable.  
 11.30 Channel 4 News. The day's developments in the Gulf  
 11.50 After Dark. Open-ended discussion on whether men have to be  
 violent. Among those taking part are American feminist Kate  
 Millet, author of *Sexual Politics*, and sociologist Elliott Layton

## SATellite

## SKY ONE

- 6.00am Crick. The Ashes Tour Live  
 England v Australia. Second day, fourth test  
 7.20 Crick. Highlights 8.00am Crick. The Ashes Tour Live  
 11.00 The Boat. Women. 12.00 Beyond  
 2.00 1.00am Combat 2.00 WWF Wrestling  
 Challenge 3.00 Cool Cube 5.00 Chop  
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 Challenge 3.0



**CHANNEL 4**

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily with the overnight news from the war in the Gulf
- Dr Snuggles 8.00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobobs 9.00 Early Start
- 7.25 The 100th Anniversary of the Dardanelles and the 120th of the
- Lata in Her Own Voice. Continuing the series which pays tribute
- to Lata Mangeshkar, the singer who is one of the legends of the
- Indian cinema.
- 10.00 Channel 4 Politics – Second Reading. Includes a look at
- the lessons of the Gulf war for European union.
- 0.45 Dennis Carlton 11.00 Five After. A documentary which follows
- the progress of a group of 11-year-olds traveling along the Grand
- Union Canal on a traditional narrow-boat (r) 11.30 Star Trek.
- Wally Pester. A comedy sketch on the spotlights and the
- chewing the computer's unrelenting questions on his likes,
- dislikes, attitudes and secrets
- 2.00 The Waltons. Warm-hearted saga with the Walton family and their
- hunts the 1,000 Walms to the bottom of the Sea (t/w) The seawater
- France fiction genre set against the Summer of 1968.



### A thrice-blessed phenomenon: Anne-Sophie Mutter (10.50pm)

**10:50 The South Bank Show: Anne-Sophie Mutter.**  
 © ChOOL: "It can be a disadvantage when one of the best violinists currently gracing the world's concert platforms also happens to be one of the most photogenic. The lucky camera team employed by director Alan Benson when filming the taping and performing *Fraulein Mutter* have wisely warmed to their task to the same degree as the audience, and as a result we get to see her not only heard but the joyous glow reflecting her in the generous excerpts we hear from the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and smatches from works by Sarasate, Moret, Bach, Tartinì and (a particular treat for those who can't get enough of the sonata), César Franck. *Fraulein Mutter* also happens to have a shrewd head on her pretty neck. The rarefied sound is a welcome phenomenon. (Crackle)"

**11:50 ITN Gulf News Report: Ends at 6:00**

**LIFESTYLE**

10.00 Johnny Rags 12.30pm WRN  
In Germany 1.00 The Jean Rivers Show 1.50  
Shout! He Scream! 2.30pm Spain Span  
International Comedy 3.00 Wrestling 4.00  
The Jay Jones 4.30pm Part of New York  
1.00 The Sake-Vision Shopping Channel  
JSTV 11.00 The Sake-Vision Shopping  
Channel 12.00 Sake-Vision Jubilee

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL**  
• Via the Marcopolo satellite.  
• 10.30pm Johnny Allegro (1945): A gang-  
banger film that is given the opportunity to  
be straight.  
• 11.00 Ray Charles Have Wings (1958): Pilot  
of Ray Charles is a green of rural place from  
South America.  
• 12.00 Dollars - Invasion Earth 2160 AD  
• 12.30pm Slapping Pate Country  
• 1.00 Crooked (1984): A misperpetrated  
version boss (Bill Murray) is taught  
the art of the wags

10.00 The Whales of August (1987): Two  
elderly sisters (Bette Davis, Lillian Gish)  
appear as they live for the end of summer  
11.45 Three Degrees Burn (1988) Five  
eye Treat Williams becomes a murder  
victim as the clients is killed  
12.00m Bloodhounds (1988) A jewel thief  
smuggles a priceless gem into the luggage  
of two newly-weds. Ends at 8.10

**THE SPORTS CHANNEL**  
• Via the Marcopolo satellite.  
• 10.30pm Australian Open Tennis 1.30pm  
British Football 1.30pm Australian Open  
Tennis 8.00 Football 8.15 British Rugby  
League 8.30 Football 10.00 Scottish Foot-  
ball League 11.00 Grand National Trials  
To . . . 11.30 Football

**THE POWER STATION**  
• Via the Marcopolo satellite.  
Twenty hours of rock and pop.

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Wor  
Alive

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- SPORT 23-28  
● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 28-33  
● WEEKEND MONEY 34-38

## SPORT

## Becker's net gain



BY WINNING the Australian Open tomorrow, Boris Becker can become officially the world's leading tennis player. But, as Andrew Longmore reports, Ivan Lendl (above) is a match for anyone in the heat of Melbourne's Flinders Park, as he proved yesterday when coming from match point down to beat Stefan Edberg, the incumbent world No. 1. Becker has never won the Australian title but should he defeat Lendl in the final, he would only require a French Open triumph to complete a full set of grand slam titles. Page 28

## RUGBY UNION

## Cup country

AFTER the opening round of five nations' championship matches last weekend, cup rugby is the focal point of today's programme in England and Wales. Newcastle-Gosforth face a daunting task against Orrell in the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, remembering their 76-0 beating in a club match earlier in the season. And in the Schweppes Welsh Cup, Neath and Newport provide the most interest. Page 26

## SKIING

## Home help



AUSTRIANS have come to expect victory this winter and on their home pistes at Saalbach, where the world championships are taking place, Petra Kronberger is favourite for the women's downhill title today. Another Austrian, Sabine Ginther (above), took the combined event yesterday. Brian James looks at this weekend's downhill, the true test of the championships. Page 24

## ATHLETICS

## In and out

"WINNING indoors means absolutely nothing," David Sharpe, the Scottish 800 metres runner, says candidly. But he will be in Lievin, France, today for the IAAF indoor invitation meeting, knowing that his best outdoor performances have come after competing in roofed arenas. With the world championships in Tokyo in August, Sharpe begins his preparations for outdoor fame and fortune. Page 25

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## Close quarters



SUPER Bowl XXV has been dubbed the New York State championship match this year as the flashy Buffalo Bills, led by their quarterback, Jim Kelly (above), meet the more down-to-earth New York Giants in Tampa tomorrow night. Simon Barnes looks forward to a classic encounter between prolific offense and impervious defense. Page 25

## RACING

## Second course

NORTON'S Coin and Toby Tobias, first and second in last year's Toté Cheltenham Gold Cup, renew rivalry at the course today. Page 27

## Old timers recall emotions of 1958

By CLIVE WHITE

NAT Lofthouse remembers it well. The ball came over, he shoulder-charged Harry Gregg and he, the Manchester United goalkeeper and the ball all finished up in the back of the net. Much to the astonishment of the huge assembly, the challenge was judged to be fair and Bolton Wanderers were awarded their second goal — as against the seven scored by United.

Those last seven words are not a mischievous distortion of the truth by a long-grieving United supporter but a statement of fact. United did beat Bolton 7-2 in 1958 and, according to Lofthouse, he did successfully dump Gregg over the goal line for their second goal. But that was 19 days before the Munich air crash, not on that anti-climactic day three months later in May at Wembley when the wave of sympathy which United had instinctively ridden since Munich foundered upon the pragmatic footballers of Bolton in the FA Cup Final.

Lofthouse was the instrument with which a superior Bolton side battered United into submission 33 years ago, very different circumstances to that which finds the clubs in opposition today in the fourth round at Old Trafford. That day in 1958 Bolton were already a goal up, scored by "Lofty", when, in the words of Geoffrey Green, then football correspondent of *The Times*, "a lovely triangular move, probably the best of the day, between Stevens, Parry and Holden saw Stevens hit a fast rising shot at Gregg."

"Gregg knocked the ball up over his head and as he turned to gather it — his back to the field of play — he was bundled into his net, ball and all, by Lofthouse's hard, swift challenge. It looked very much an unlawful charge in the back and certainly poor Gregg lay twitching in agony for several minutes as hasty repairs were effected."

"Yet for all the serious question mark it left, the goal stood in the eyes of the referee and that is all that counts. That ended the saga of Manchester United and in the act they won admiration. Not a word of protest or appeal came from a single player."

Nor has it since, even from Gregg. Now the manager of a hotel at Portlewart, Northern Ireland, Gregg was back in Manchester this week where he will meet up with his old friends, including Lof-

thouse, from the 1958 final at a special lunch to be held before this afternoon's "re-enactment" at Old Trafford. Sadly missing will be Derek Hennin, the Bolton wing half, and Ernie Taylor, the United inside forward, who are both dead.

"For me, anything after Munich in that period of time was an anticlimax, including Wembley which should have been the greatest day of my life. But the fact that I was playing football was very important. It helped me keep my sanity," Gregg said.

"As for the incident, I have never said Lofthouse was right or he was wrong, just that I would have done the same thing to him if given the chance. I caught a lot of people in my time. When you live by the sword you must be prepared to die by it. Mind you, he was very lucky I wasn't looking when he caught me."

One person who was in no doubt that it was a foul was Lofthouse, now president of Bolton and responsible for the club's commercial activities. Time has given him impunity and, besides, the incident came at a time when men were men and centre forwards were quite entitled to knock the living daylight out of goalkeepers. Even so, Lofthouse's honesty took one aback. "Of course it was a foul," he said without a trace of remorse, "but I'm just glad that we won 2-0 instead of 1-0."

United supporters, including those old enough to know better, have always consoled themselves with the thought that the scoreline would have been rather different had the Busby Babes been able to take the field that day instead of that brave hastily-assembled band of deputies. But rivalry between the two clubs in the days when Lancashire ruled the first division without the help of Liverpool was always close and intense. In that same season, Bolton had beaten the Babes 4-0 at Burnham Park. "Not even Mat Busby slept easily the night before you went to Burnham," Gregg said.

The two clubs were not separated by two divisions as they are today though Lofthouse, who still talks about their rivalry in the present tense, steadfastly believes that the gulf will not be apparent today either. "It's the Cup, anything can happen. I think United will be surprised at the calibre of football that we play," he said. "We'll draw there, bring 'em here and beat 'em." His confidence



Reflections of a bygone age: Nat Lofthouse, the famous Bolton centre forward of yesteryear, with trophies and memories at Burnham Park, and (below) harassing Harry Gregg, the Manchester United goalkeeper, at Wembley in the FA Cup final of 1958

could be infectious.

United, in their own way, are a far cry, too, from the team which Gregg knew. Alex Ferguson's team of all stars have been assembled at a cost of about £13 million; Gregg recalled once writing down the names of 42 players on the Old Trafford staff of whom only four had been bought — himself, Ray Wood, John Berry and Tommy Taylor.

Lofthouse, a one-club man for 52 years, doubted whether even his sense of loyalty would have been able to resist the temptations on offer to players today. Bolton, not bound by freedom of contract, never gave him the opportunity to know anything else, rejecting offers from Fiorentina and Tottenham Hotspur among others. "In a

way I'm glad they did. I've been happy here. Best club in the world, this," he said and you knew he meant it.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, he is a great admirer of Mark Hughes, United's robust forward who would not have been out of place in the Fifties. "I've never seen anybody hit a ball on a full volley like he does in all my life," he said. An arthritic condition in his ankle and knee, rather than his 65 years, might prevent him from showing Hughes and others how he used to head a ball harder than some people could shoot, but he could still teach many a sharp lesson in humility.

Speedie's cup omission, page 25



## Unforgettable debut by Waugh

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, ADELAIDE

MARK Waugh will never again be the forgotten brother of Steve, after the superb unbroken century in his debut innings yesterday which denied England a position of command in the fourth Ashes Test match.

Waugh, brought into the Australian side at the expense of his twin, made light of a score of 124 for five and guided his team to total of 269 for five at close of play.

Then, applying a large dose of salt to the wounds of the England captain, Graham Gooch, he confirmed that he would not be returning for a third season with Gooch's county, Essex, this summer.

"If I am chosen for Australia's tour of the West Indies, I won't be going back to Essex," Waugh said.

As his selection in the tour party, expected to be announced next week, is now a formality, Gooch can be said to have suffered twice through this magnificent innings.

Waugh, the 25-year-old who has added a touch of steel to his flair, became the first man since Brendan Kuruppu, of Sri Lanka, four years ago, to make a century in his first Test innings. He is the tenth Australian to do so, following such names as Bannerman, 115 years ago, Greg Chappell and Walters.

He did not look nervous at any stage and, remarkably, he confirmed the impression. "I was much more nervous a couple of days ago. With a couple of wickets falling in an over, I was out there before I had time to think about it,

and once I hit a couple in the middle, I relaxed.

"Sometimes it is better to go in with the pressure on, as it was today. I certainly think I play better for it."

Waugh nominated Gladstone Small as the most dangerous of England's bowlers and pointed out that the ball seemed around for much of the day. In truth, however, he never looked troubled by it.

"It was," he said, "one of those days, an innings I might be lucky to play once in a hundred stars. You can't do much better than to make a century in your first Test, can you? Unless, of course, you make two!"

Reports and scoreboard, page 24

## Festival prizes pierce the gloom

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Cheltenham festival has received a 30 per cent boost in prize-money after attracting four new sponsors, it was announced yesterday.

National Hunt racing's prestige three-day meeting in March will have total added prize-money of £895,000, compared with £694,500 in 1990. The increase represents a considerable triumph for the management at Prestbury Park, given the gloomy state of the economy and the racing industry.

The Toté Cheltenham Gold Cup, won by the 100-1 outsider, Norton's Coin, last season, has had its added value increased by 50 per cent to £150,000, making it the most valuable steeplechase in Europe. The value of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle has increased by two-thirds to £120,000.

Trafalgar House is sponsoring

the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, which opens the festival meeting, while the Arkle Trophy is being sponsored for the first time by Waterford Castle. BonusPrint are the new backers of the Stayers' Hurdle.

The fifth name change to the first day of the meeting will see the running of the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Handicap Chase, in recognition of the outstanding career of Fulke Walwyn.

Although the economic recession is expected to result in a ten per cent reduction in the number of people accommodated in Cheltenham's tented village, public advance bookings have not been affected and have already passed the £1 million mark. The tented village is used mainly by companies bringing guests.

The bookmakers' case, page 26

## Going like an unexploded bomb

Tampa

This year, the unfettered joy has gone out of the Super Bowl, and with it much of the unfettered nonsense. No one feels comfortable with the event's traditions of hyping its own hype. Take the Bud Bowl, for example. This is a series of television commercials featuring a football game between different kinds of beer bottles. Rumours abound that the cartoons are going through a last-minute revamp: it is thought that the original featured a "bomb" (vernacular for a long, high pass) that lands in the end zone and actually, tee hee, explodes. Not quite the thing in the present international climate.

And the security for the game at Tampa Stadium tomorrow is getting serious and has done more to take the bubbles out of the occasion. Spectators have been banned from taking in beepers, cellular phones, cameras, Walkmans, radios, television sets, video cameras, umbrellas, bottles, cans and all other containers. The occasion has always been greater than the mere game, but this time, that weird monster called the Super Bowl seems to have disappeared from sight. What shall we write about, or talk about now? Things have got so desperate that people are going to have to concentrate on the football.

So let us celebrate the man who must surely be the football supporter of the year. He was described by police as "a Los Angeles Raiders fan". He has been charged with robbing 24 banks in Sacramento, California, all to

## SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

finance trips to watch the Raiders. His name is Claude Dawson Jones, aged 32, and he is being held on bail of \$1 million. He was arrested in a motel room, where he was discovered along with a ticket for last Sunday's game against Buffalo, one which the Raiders lost heavily. No doubt they missed the presence of this strange but dedicated man.

## Gone overboard

Two things we Brits do not get in college sport are the twin sins of taunting and showboating. (Or do we? The Boat Race is always an intense war of words, and Donald MacDonald's victory salute, standing erect in the Oxford boat in mutiny year, was as pure an example of showboating as I have ever seen.) Anyway, after Miami University's outrageous display of both taunting and showboating in the Mobil Cotton Bowl, the NCAA, which runs all college sports, is calling for a crackdown. "If it doesn't improve, we'll have to look at some more rule changes," was the dark threat from a spokesman.

## Maiden over

My friends at *Wisden Cricket Monthly* magazine tell me that there is one sure way to stop AIDS in its tracks. Cricket. The magazine quotes a letter to the Bangkok Post

that says: "Safe alternatives to sex should be sought. A strong possibility is cricket. Cricket-playing nations are capable of only limited amounts of sexual activity." No doubt that's why there are so many maidens.

## The Clashspiel

Practically the oldest joke in the history of American sport is "I went to a fight last night and an ice hockey match broke out". Well, how about "I went to a fight last night and a curling match broke out"? Yes, it's all true. I have a shocking story of curling violence to impart. It all took place in British Columbia the other week, at an event called the Clashspiel, worth Can \$11,500. Serious stuff.

The second-round match in the competition had become increasingly prone to gamesmanship. Ed Dezura was making what should have been the final shot to seal victory for his Vancouver side. Ed Blom, for the opposition, told him to be careful, he might make a mess of things. Dezura promptly did exactly that.

Then, enraged beyond all measure by the taunt and his own failure, he seized his opponent by the throat. That was the signal for all the other players to join in. It was a mass display of fistcliffs and one player said afterwards: "I go back 14 years with this club and I can't remember anything like this happening before." But it is one of life's inescapable rules: great sport excites great passions.

There's a few bob in tennis these days, right? I hear that Ion Tiriac,

the tennis person, is doing all right, anyway — so much so that he has opened his own bank. It is in Romania, where he was born, and it will have a starting capital of 500 million lei, or £12 million.

## Big risk of ban

A new male contraceptive could become a new method of cheating in athletics. A study on behalf of the World Health Authority has concluded that weekly injections of 200 milligrams of testosterone enanthate were "a safe, stable, effective and reversible contraceptive". But this substance also happens to be an anabolic steroid — one banned by most sports, as you would expect.

It is a hormone that can be used to add muscle mass and strength. "It would make me bigger. It would make any man bigger," Charles Yesalis, who is a consultant to high schools, college sports groups and the National Football League, said. Dr C. Allvin Paulsen, of Washington University Medical Centre, conceded that, of 157 guinea pigs, "some were gained, and they liked that. It was muscle, it wasn't flabby fat."

The fear, of course, is that athletes would get "contraceptive" injections from several doctors every week. Another doctor said: "It opens the door to abuse — because testosterone is the granddaddy of all the anabolic steroids." No doubt the correspondent of the Bangkok Post had it right: cricket is the answer.

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# Amateur ethics ridicule rugby's reactionaries

When I was three or four I once severely embarrassed my mother, not for the last time, while out walking. In a rural area, where farming folk took themselves seriously, I laughed fit to burst as we watched three farmhands with ropes attempting to control a raging bull who succeeded in tipping one of them head first into a deep pile of semi-liquid manure.

A similar reaction has been prompted by observing the Rugby Football Union getting themselves into a fair old mess this past week. There is no British sport - cricket, football, tennis, athletics, boxing - that can look back with credit on administration over the past 30 years, but English rugby is looking particularly silly.

It has been all too predictable, unfortunately, that some such pantomime would sooner or later befall the game this season, given



COMMENT  
DAVID MILLER  
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

last summer's decision - or non decision - by the International Rugby Football Board on the question of professionalism. I begged to suggest as much at the time.

Loosely translated, the edict of the IRFB - a Pontius Pilate-style, almost unintelligible draft devised by Sir Ewart Bell that ducked the board's responsibility for giving proper direction - was "go as far as your conscience permits you." That was fine for those without much conscience. As last Saturday demonstrated, however, there is a gulf between the officials of the RFU and some of the England players and their agent.

The RFU, always the most reactionary of the national rugby federations regarding professionalism, has been digging in its heels against the irresistible tide of professionalism. The players, while on the one hand wanting to appear gentlemen and sportsmen in the direct line of descent from William Webb Ellis, at the same time are eager to make a bob or two on the side.

The result is that RFU officials have been left looking like Brigadier Terry Thomas in an Ealing Studio City farce, and the players like Lance Corporals trying a fiddle at the quartermaster's stores. In the light of England's behaviour at the Arms Park, Cardiff, it ill

becomes Will Carling, the captain, to have castigated Paul Gascoigne for his behaviour, as he did at November's conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation when debating sportsmanship.

All this is the more a pity because Carling is as fine a figure as there is in British sport at the present time. He is an honest and upright player, a credit to his game and his country, merely attempting to react to the conditions of the moment.

He and his team colleagues are trapped between the reality of life as it is and the way Mike Peary and particularly Dudley Wood, respectively the RFU president and secretary, would like it to be.

It is as though rugby has learned nothing from the example of tennis in the early Sixties and athletics in the Eighties as those sports were obliged to move away from amateurism at the top,

where governing bodies harvested the cash but were reluctant to pay bonuses.

Every RFU official seems to see himself cast as Canute. Peary, who doubtless behaves in exemplary fashion towards his mother-in-law, children and animals, says: "We, as administrators, are going down a road we are not desperately keen to go down, but one we have to go along to some extent." His script could have been written by Monty Python. He should realise you cannot indefinitely control the bull by the nose.

Wood is an inevitable catalyst for controversy in the present environment. He likes to boast that he can raise the roof with applause at any club rugby dinner by claiming that the game will always be amateur. He leaps like a salmon for the fly the moment it is suggested that Rugby League might be as enjoyable as the Union game, proving the very point by his overt touchiness. It is

even rumoured that he briefed Carling for his CCPR address.

Further pepper was added to the witches' cauldron by the appointment of Bob Willis's company to represent the players' commercial interests. Anyone with a memory over 20 years of Willis's ambivalence towards the press might have supposed that this would be a recipe for disaster. It is a little late now for Willis, and for Geoff Cooke, the team manager, to be trying to cover their tracks.

English rugby is seen not to have a clue where it stands, and although the players were patently ill-advised to behave as they did, they are the last people who should be blamed in a shoddy situation.

The fault lies firstly with the IRFB for failing to grasp the nettle and establish concise regulations that would have embraced, and disciplined, both ends of the spectrum: the New Zealanders and the French, for

whom anything goes, and the belligerently pious RFU.

Secondly, the RFU should have the wit to sense that exploitation by them of the IRFB's slack diagnosis was bound to lead to aggravated instability.

Of course, the players have a duty, as public performers, to speak to the media - an established regulation in golf and tennis and grabbed with alacrity by every sports performer or administrator in the United States where they recognise the value of exposure that money cannot buy.

If I were Carling, I would establish a formal players' committee and issue a statement that, until the RFU gets its act together on a rationalisation of payments, the only interview the team will give will be by the captain and one requested player together with the team manager at a formal press conference. We would all sympathise with that.

One man defies visiting cricketers as they threaten to assume total command in Test

## Waugh gives England no peace

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, ADELAIDE

GRAHAM Gooch already knew Mark Waugh could play. He had spent much of last summer admiring his batting for Essex and much of this winter trying to persuade him back. He needed no further convincing of Waugh's rare gifts, least of all yesterday.

For more than half of the fourth Test's opening day, England had scorned the traditional etiquette of the Adelaide Oval. They were threatening to bowl out Australia for fewer than 200. On this ground, that is not done; Waugh ensured that it was not.

With an innings of infinite charm and fluency, Waugh changed the course of the day and charted the course of his future. His twin brother, Steve, may have beaten Mark into the Australian side by five years, but he had to wait 27 Tests for his first century. Mark needed just one majestic innings. The long wait is over. A new and engaging star is here to stay.

This was the 26th century of Waugh's career and his third in successive games. If he goes on to make a hundred, which well he might, he will struggle to play better. He offered England no chances, indeed scarcely a false shot, as he scored 106 of the unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 145 with Greg Matthews.

When the 25-year-old reached his century, in under three hours, with a typically assured square-cut four, 17,000 people rose and roared their approval as one, a deafening gesture of acclaim. Out in the middle, Gooch plodded stoically over to his erstwhile county colleague, patted him on the back and said: "Well done, boy." If it was said through gritted teeth, Gooch could not be blamed.

In becoming the tenth Australian and the first for seven years, to make a century in his debut Test innings, Waugh diminished the hopes that had begun to burn in the England camp during several hours of intense and productive attack from the four seam bowlers. At 124 for five, Australia were staggering. At 269 for five, they were on the verge of regaining control of

the match, a control they assumed as soon as Allan Border won the toss.

No Ashes Test at Adelaide has ever been won by a side choosing to bowl first and even the heavy cloud cover cannot have tempted Border to try. It was a toss England would equally love to have won but, as things transpired, it was not a bad one to have lost. Although the pace of the pitch was placid, the ball did move off the seam while the cloud remained, and two batsmen at least were dismissed underestimating the bounce.

There were shocks to absorb even before the start. England, having first taken the decision to play their best wicket-keeper, Russell, reversed it just before the toss when it became clear that Angus Fraser was less than fully fit. It was felt too risky to include Fraser as one of only four bowlers, so Russell, after a run of 20 Tests, was the innocent victim of circumstance.

It went against Gooch's principles to omit Russell, and he cannot have enjoyed breaking the news to him, but if Fraser's presence was deemed essential the move had some logic. All day long, Fraser was holding back, bowling at no more than medium pace with little in the way of body action.

Australia also omitted a mainstay in Terry Alderman, relegated to twelfth man, but their top five were again unchanged although, at the end of the day, as at the start, none of them boasts a century in the series.

Mark Taylor has, to English eyes, been the surprise, if not the disappointment. Two half-centuries is not much to show for a man who, in 1989, scored 839 runs in an Ashes series. England have generally bowled well to him but his dismissal yesterday owed nothing to the bowling. Marsh called him for a single which would have been perilous even if Taylor had not started slowly and then hesitated. As it was, he was out by yards.

Boon was fortunate to survive another run-out decision but Marsh was starting to play with certainty when Small found a good one for him,



Cutting loose: Waugh changing the course of the day and of his future with his fluent, maiden Test century

### ADELAIDE SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings					
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Min	Rate
G R Marsh c Gooch b Small	37	5	5	53	67
Low catch to second slip					
M A Taylor run out (Smith-Small)	5	-	-	19	18
played wide of short leg; batsman					
D C Boon c Fraser b Malcolm	48	4	191	146	
played under ball, caught at third man					
"A R Border b DeFreitas	12	1	75	33	
dismissed by bounce and played on					
D M Jones bow b DeFreitas	0	-	2	3	
beaten off pitch, playing back					
M E Waugh not out	116	-	18	190	142
G R J Matthews not out	29	-	1	151	101
Extras (lb 17, w 1, nb 3)	21				
Total (Swish, 363min, 85 overs)	269				
H A Healy, C J McDermott, M G Hughes and B A Reid to bat.					
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Marsh 5), 2-82 (Boon 13), 3-104 (Boon 40), 4-104 (Boon 40), 5-124 (Marsh 10)					
BOWLING: Malcolm 23-47-1 (1nb) (7-2-14-0), (5-0-17-1), (4-0-27-0); Fraser 19-38-0 (5-1-11-0), (4-2-11-0), (5-1-10-0), (5-2-7-0), (5-2-28-1), (5-2-13-0), (5-2-21-0), (5-2-21-0), (5-1-18-0), (5-2-0-0); Tufnell 5-0-38-0 (3-0-25-0), (2-0-18-0); Gooch 4-1-18-0 (1nb) (one wicket); ENGLAND: "G A Gooch, M A Atherton, D Gower, A J Lamb, R A Smith, J A Stewart, P A J DeFreitas, G C Small, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm, P C R Tufnell. Unlucky: L J King and T A Prue.					
FIRST TEST: Australia won by 15 wickets.					
SECOND TEST: Australia won by 8 wickets.					
THIRD TEST: Match drawn.					
TEST TO COME: Fifth Test: Perth, February 1-6.					

seaming away and taking the edge to second slip. Next ball, the entire England side acclaimed a catch by the deputy wicketkeeper, Stewart. Border stayed put and so did the umpire Prue's finger.

DeFreitas did not bowl until after lunch. When he did, he soon made the most dramatic incision, removing Border and Jones in four balls. Border had totted 70 minutes over eight before apparently breaking the shackles with a pull for four. Going back to the next ball, he was cramped by lift and nudged it into his stumps.

Three balls later, Jones was adjudged leg-before and, if there was some doubt over whether it was too high, missing leg stump, and if Jones had hit it, the fact was that a vital decision had gone England's way at last and they were unarguably on top.

When Boon played an in-

discreet and unnecessary slash at a short, wide ball from Malcolm and was caught at third man, England were almost through. But only almost, and they were to get no further.

Waugh's first runs in Test cricket came from his second ball with a straight drive of such immaculate conception that the purists must have purred. He never deviated from the textbook thereafter, yet played strokes of stunning variety and virtuosity, including five fours in the first two overs bowled by Tufnell.

Matthews was an effective foil to Waugh's bare. While Waugh banished the ball, Matthews preyed on it, defying it to pass. It was a mighty contrast in styles, a mighty setback to England on a day when they were close to taking total charge of a Test against heavy odds.

### TEST MILESTONE

MARK Waugh became the fifteenth Australian to score a century on his Test debut, with his innings of 116 not out in the Adelaide Test match. Wayne Phillips was the last Australian to do so - against Pakistan in 1983-4 - and Kepler Wessels was the last Australian to score a hundred on his Test debut in an Ashes series, with an innings of 182 at Brisbane in 1982-83. Charles Bannerman's 165 not

out in the first Test match is still the highest score made by an Australian player on his Test debut.

With Mark making his first Test appearance five years after his brother, Stephen, the Waughes became the first twins to both appear in Test cricket.

Small did not make his maiden Test century until his 27th match when he scored 177 not out against England at Headingley in 1989.

## Medlycott is given a chance to find form

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN COLOMBO

KEITH Medlycott, the Surrey left-arm spin bowler, has been given an immediate chance to try to recapture the bowling skills that deserted him in the practice game on Thursday. Medlycott has been selected for the England A side today for the opening two-day game of the tour against a Mercantile Cricket Association XI.

As usual, it is intended to give everyone the opportunity to play in one or other of the first two matches. Medlycott's inclusion, though, was both sensible and a considerate gesture to a player, who was understandably depressed after a wretched control when his bowling lost all control and rhythm.

The tour selectors have clearly seen light in delaying the moment when Medlycott must resume match-play. Following the team's other slow left-arm bowler, has also been included.

The England players were given their first free day yesterday since leaving London

and relaxed at a nearby resort. Munton reported no ill effects after becoming dehydrated in the practice game but everybody has had a timely reminder not to take chances with the Sri Lankan sunshine. The accompanying humidity takes more toll on most people.

The young Mercantile XI are led by Kuruppu, who made a double century against New Zealand in his first Test match four years ago.

MERCANTILE CA XI (from): D S B Kuruppu (capt), D Sureshwardene, S Weerasinghe, A De Silva, U Kuruwita, R Wickramaratne, S Silva, M Hettiaratne, R Wickramaratne, V Deshpande, S Arundel, C Fernando, S Jayasinghe, S Jayasinghe, D Wickramaratne, A Ekanayake, R Kuruppu.

ENGLAND A XI (from): R J Stokely, M Hussain, M H Farooque, G P Thorpe, W K Meeg, K T Medlycott, P J Newport, R A Smith, R A Piel, S L Warner.

## Umpires on a crooked wicket

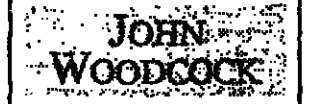
Adelaide

IT IS many years ago now that I first heard cricket in Australia described as the "numbers game." It relates to the umpiring. Either your number is up or it is not. It suggests a lottery, and has to do with integrity but competence.

Although the standard of umpiring in England is not, I believe, quite all it is cracked up to be, it is still the best in the world. So, of course, it should be. Nowhere else is it done by former first-class cricketers, who know what posers to expect.

The West Indians are all for their Test series in England this coming summer being umpired by Englishmen, as the West Indian captain in Pakistan recently, Desmond Haynes, said so whenever he had the chance.

Even in the days when South Africa played Test cricket, the umpiring there was the cause of constant dissatisfaction, and from what I saw last year that is still the case. It is the same in New Zealand, and there has probably never been a side which has toured India or Pakistan without feeling, at times, hard done by.



JOHN WOODCOCK

Although I can understand that I have seldom seen a series better umpired than the one last November and December between Pakistan and West Indies in Pakistan. Considering the pressure the umpires in West Indies are under, especially in their own islands, they do a better job than they are often given credit for.

But it is a long time since I had much confidence in Australian umpires, not only when England are here. Pakistan has some reason for thinking that they lost the first Test match in Melbourne a year ago because of a succession of questionable lbw decisions on the last day. In the last fortnight alone, two Sheffield Shield matches were bedeviled by umpiring controversies, prompted by frenzied appealing, fierce inter-state rivalry and umpires who were unable to cope.

It was to England's credit here

yesterday that they did not allow two decisions before lunch to get into their system. When Boon was still in single figures, he was run out by a good foot and a half and given in, and Border, to his first ball, survived an appeal for a catch at the wicket off Small which looked as though it must have been out. They got one back when Jones was adjudged leg-before to a ball which would, in all probability, have missed the leg stump.

It is no coincidence that the last series I saw in Australia in which England thought the umpiring was good was before the matches were televised and well before the slow motion camera, the buzz of the modern Test umpire, came into play. It was in 1954-55 and England won, which may have been another reason why they had few complaints.

With the benefit of a television replay, the umpire, King, would have had to give Boon out yesterday, and that is something which Sir Donald Bradman, for one, thinks could and should be changed. He would have a third arbiter stationed by a TV monitor, to be consulted when the umpire with the decision to give is in any doubt over run-outs or stumpings.

The great man, who has lived in Adelaide for nearly 60 years, was present yesterday, but he will be playing golf today. Most umpires are against the idea of a third pair of eyes, and inevitably it would further slow the game down, but I should like to see it. While talking of umpires, I cannot for the life of me see why it should have to cost £200,000 (the figure widely quoted) to set up an international panel, nor why neutral umpires in Test matches should have to be mandatory. Why not go ahead and name a panel of, say, 10 umpires, nominated by the full members of the International Cricket Council, with those chosen to be paid a retainer and called on if one or both of the competing sides so wish?

You would find, I think, that in more than half the Test matches played, the status quo would prevail, with home umpires officiating. The match now in progress would still, I fancy, be in the hands of Messrs King and Prue, incorruptible partners in the numbers game.

### SKIING

## Fears for the less experienced on downhill course

FROM BRIAN JAMES IN SAALBACH

CONCERN about safety, with two more men injured, and panic about performance, made the men's sun-softened downhill course at Hinterglenn a place of dark shadows yesterday.

The first racers down, many competing furiously for places in national teams, spoke of an easy course. All except the powerful and perceptive Marc Girardelli, who insisted that, for the best skiers - "it is a good course, now they have covered places at the top where rocks were coming through."

"But I am worried about the late numbers. They don't race downhill all year like us. On this very quick course they could get unlucky. Like in Wengen." Wengen is where, one week ago, Gernot Reinsch, aged 20, crashed and died.

Girardelli was soon proved right. Lasse Kjus, of Norway, starting 36th, hurtled into a holed fence still being repaired after a skier had burst through, and was taken to hospital with serious jaw injuries. Three racers later, Lars Boerje Eriksson, of Sweden, fell and broke his shin-bone, crashing over the fence a few yards away.

Fierce criticism, and perhaps overnight modification, are being aimed at this section of piste. Neither man is a negligible downhill, and the danger to late-starters in tomorrow's men's downhill is demonstrated.

Being a landlocked nation, the Swiss misunderstood that dropping the pilot just before the

ship hits the iceberg is no way to avert disaster. Thus, trying to ditch Karl Frehsner, the team's head coach, less than midway through the world ski championships looked an exercise in spiteful futility. Swiss skiers immediately rebelled and Frehsner, who has masterminded the team's long and largely triumphant reign since 1977 - the years of Zurbriegen and Mueller - was asked to stay until after the championship by Paul Berlinger, their federation's racing chief and the man who had earlier ordered him to leave.

The Swiss have won no medals in the two men's events so far completed. Worse, they had no man in the first five. Worse yet, Petra Kronberger, of Austria, outclasses all their women.

Not only national pride fuels this roar: huge sums of money swing on success or failure by the equipment/tourism interests, linked in turn to the alpine nation's most televised sport.

The Swiss, like the Austrians, made third and fourth places in their team open to competition in training. Besse thus joined Heinzer and Mahler in Frehsner's possibly final line-up. Three men, covered yesterday by 1.3 seconds, rerun today for the last place.

Ortleib and Resch, fourth and fifth yesterday 1.3sec behind the leader, go again today for Austria's last place. Poor Kjus was striving for a Norwegian bib when he fell.

## Kronberger keeps Austrians happy

FROM BRIAN JAMES

BRIGHT as specks of confetti carried by a gale, the first women to race in these world ski championships tore in to set their times yesterday in the combined downhill, an event seen by the sport's best as ranking slightly above the Over-Fifteen Egg and Spoon.

Only when the time established by Sabine Gierth, of Austria, and those who follow her, are added to the places they gain in next week's combined slalom will the world have its combined champion, theoretically the best all-rounder. Or fill of all trades.

But the only truly coveted medals are those for specialist disciplines. Today these women will pass yesterday's starting point already travelling at 75mph: for the true downhill begins a steep 250 metres further up, a flying start that will divide the girls from the women.

Yet the day was not utterly meaningless. That Petra Kronberger lies second tells all Austria that this championship will not be the last in Vail, when Kronberger, even then a wunderkind, froze and won nothing. She has spent the intervening two years becoming

the best in the world: what these championships are supposed to show is whether she can become the best woman skier ever.

Not since Moser-Profl won six world titles in the Seventies, have Austria had a woman of that potential. The years since were surrendered to the Swiss. Maria Walliser and Michela Murgia, who carved up four world championship golds, four overall championships and more than 50 World Cup races between them.

The Swiss are both here as television commentators. Any Austrian will tell you they retired last season, not because they had each made a million, but because Kronberger was becoming unbeatable.

Kronberger allowed that she was happy to have this race behind her as the weight of the host nation's expectations was near unbearable.

RESULT: Combined downhill, 1. S Gierth (Austria), 1:18.23sec; 2. P Kronberger (Austria), 1:18.59; 3. C Borelli (Switzerland), 1:18.88; 4. Gierth (USA), 1:18.70; 5. M Gerg (Austria), 1:19.12; 6. K Gundersen (Norway), 1:19.52; 7. N Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 8. M Gundersen (Norway), 1:19.52; 9. M Vogt (Germany), 1:19.52; 10. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 11. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 12. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 13. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 14. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 15. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 16. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 17. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 18. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 19. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52; 20. V Zedler (Germany), 1:19.52.

### SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)		Conditions Piste	Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm)	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	8	65	fair	varied	worn	fine	-2 13/1
Good spring skiing at Pangelstein, fine weather continues.							
Obergurgl	65	120	good	varied	good	fine	-3 14/1
Very good skiing, cloudless sky, no crowds.							
St Anton	40	150	fair	varied	fair	fine	-1 13/1
North facing pistes still giving good skiing.							
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	87	280	good	varied	fair	fine	-3 13/1
All pistes in good condition, no queues.							
Isère	90	330	good	varied	good	fine	0 16/1
Generally good skiing. A few warm patches, no queues.							
Les Arcs	75	250	good		fair	fine	-2 14/1
Good skiing all areas but snow hard packed at Arc 1600.							
Tignes	120	210	good	crust	fair	fine	-6 19/1
Good piste skiing.							
Val Thorens	100	240	fair	varied	icy	fine	-2 19/1
Very good skiing on glacier slopes.							
SWITZERLAND							
Grande Montana		40	240	fair	varied	fair	fine 1
13/1							
Good snow above 2300m, lower slopes less icy.							
Grindelwald	30	65	good	varied	good	sun	-8 13/1
Good skiing conditions everywhere but with some icy patches appearing.							
Kösters	30	110	good	heavy	fair	fine	-1 13/1
Generally good skiing although the odd rock now showing through.							
Saas Fee	100	250	fair	varied	fair	fine	-2 14/1
Gneiss and upper slopes wonderful skiing on cold dry snow.							
Verbier	15	200	good	varied	icy	fine	5 19/1
Good skiing above 2200m. Icy patches on lower slopes.							
Garmatt	110	110	good	varied	fair	fine	2 14/1
Good skiing in many areas, lower slopes showing signs of wear							



# Time out from insanity for football-mad nation

## GUIDE TO THE TEAMS

**Buffalo Bills**  
1990 AFC East champions with a 13-3 record.  
Coach: Marv Levy since 1986.  
Record: AFC East champions in 1986 (12-4) and 1989 (9-7); 74-69 regular season record since 1960. The Bills are the only team in the NFL with a 100th anniversary celebration in 1991. They have won the AFC East title in 1986, 1989, 1990 and 1991. They have also won the AFC Championship in 1990 and 1991. They have won the Super Bowl in 1991.

**New York Giants**  
1990 NFC East champions with a 13-3 record.  
Coach: Bill Parcells since 1983.  
Record: NFC East champions in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. They have won the NFC Championship in 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. They have won the Super Bowl in 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

From SIMON BARNES  
TAMPA, FLORIDA



SO, IT seems, as I write, that the Sombre Bowl will go ahead. "The only way we'll call it off is if there is an indication of terrorist activity," Hugh Culverhouse, the owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, said yesterday.

Newspapers are reporting an avid response to the game from the Gulf. "We'll watch the game with gas masks on if we have to," one Saudi pilot wrote. "On this day football is more important than war."

In the week in which the Saudi pilot who shot down two planes was congratulated on national television for "making a great play," we roll on to Super Bowl XXV, our sense of perspective scrambling comprehensively by the mixture of sport and war.

The Buffalo Bills take on the New York Giants tomorrow and I suppose in a way, it matters.

It might even be a good game of football. The match — "for the championship of New York state" — offers a classic sporting contrast. We have flashy against brutal, we have offense against defense, we have the too-smooth-by-half against raw-meat-chewing desperados.

Buffalo, from upstate New York, are the flashy mob. They are led by Jim Kelly at quarterback, a man who is flashy even by the elevated standards that quarterbacks set. The Giants — actually

from New Jersey — portray themselves as lunchpail kinda guys, a blue-collar team of heroic virtues. Their defense is led by Lawrence Taylor: the bad boys' bad boy.

Buffalo are favoured to win by six points. The pro-Buffalo argument is all about momentum: the Bills are on a roll right now, see? They are indeed: just under 100 points scored in the last two games, and a near-annihilation of their highly rated opponents in the match before the Super Bowl.

Their method is a rapid-fire, fast-thinking attack based around the "no-huddle" play. This means that Kelly makes his own decisions: one play follows another at bewildering speed, without time for the ritual committee meetings and endless substitutions. The method recalls, in a distant sort of way, the flexibility and spontaneity of soccer.

The Bills adopted the tactic late in the season. It was something Kelly had been wanting to do for some time. His career thus far has had more glitz than substance, now he is reveling in the

chance to demonstrate his effectiveness.

And that is the sort of play the Giants defense will be looking to make. If they can get to Kelly, early and hard, the game will swing their way. But if Kelly and the hurry-up offense can get moving against them, the Bills can cause devastation of their own.

"We mustn't let them wear us down," Taylor said. He turned up to the press conference outrageously late, knowing he was the one we all wanted to talk to. He wore an old straw hat, a striped T-shirt, and a self-satisfied expression. He was in what passes in his turbulent life for a mellow mood.

"We mustn't let them break our spirit. You look at the film of the last two games, you say, 'they couldn't possibly lose.' But I know the guys we have on defense. And I know we will find a way to stop them. If we play Giants football like we have in the play-offs, then we'll win it."

It is a truism that Super Bowls are won by defense, rather than offense. It is also a fact that the National League side has beaten the American League side at the last six Super Bowls. These two points give me a sneaking fancy for the Giants.

The game could turn out to be a real cracker. I hope so. In a world gone mad, the madness of the Super Bowl represents a kind of sanity. It is also true that if we turn to the Super Bowl for sanity, we must be pretty hard up.

game with a bruised sternum and a broken finger.

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Kelly: flashy



Taylor: mellow

## HISTORY OF THE SUPER BOWL

Year	Game	Winners	Losers	Venue	Attendance
1967	I	Green Bay	Kansas City	Los Angeles	61,946
1968	II	Green Bay	Baltimore	Miami	75,464
1969	III	New York Jets	Baltimore	New Orleans	80,522
1970	IV	Kansas City	Baltimore	Miami	79,253
1971	V	Dallas	Minnesota	New Orleans	81,223
1972	VI	Miami	Washington	Los Angeles	90,182
1973	VII	Dallas	Minnesota	New Orleans	80,522
1974	VIII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	Miami	80,187
1975	IX	Pittsburgh	Minnesota	New Orleans	75,383
1976	X	Pittsburgh	Dallas	Miami	79,253
1977	XI	Dallas	Pittsburgh	New Orleans	80,187
1978	XII	Dallas	Pittsburgh	New Orleans	75,383
1979	XIII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	Miami	79,253
1980	XIV	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1981	XV	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383
1982	XVI	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1983	XVII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383
1984	XVIII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1985	XIX	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383
1986	XX	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1987	XXI	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383
1988	XXII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1989	XXIII	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383
1990	XXIV	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	80,187
1991	XXV	Pittsburgh	Dallas	New Orleans	75,383

Compiled by Robert Kirby

## OTHER SUPER BOWL DETAILS

Site: Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida.  
Capacity: 72,000.  
Kick-off: 2.15 (GMT).  
Colors: AFC and NFC alternate at home.  
Notes: 50 yards will wear blue.  
Home: Whichever gets \$36,000 per man, losers \$18,000.  
Sudden death: If the game is tied after 60 minutes, overtime will be played. The first team to score wins. Unlike the regular season, in which a 15-minute period is played, the Super Bowl will continue until there is a score.  
TV audience: Nearly 60 countries will see the game, either live or on video. An estimated 700 million viewers, ABC's American TV channel covering the game, is charging \$800,000 for a second commercial, receiving approximately \$43 million for the game. Nine of

## FOOTBALL

### FA CUP

#### Speedie's omission may lead to a Coventry sale

By CLIVE WHITE

DAVID Speedie was at the centre of renewed speculation about his future last night when Coventry City announced that their squad to face Southampton in the FA Cup fourth round at Highfield Road today.

Officially, Speedie had "wreaked a hamstring" but rumours suggested a deliberate attempt by Coventry to prevent the player, who is valued at £1m becoming cup-tied. Speedie did not figure in either of the club's two third-round ties against Wigan Athletic.

Everton and Nottingham Forest, both believed to be keen on signing the player whom Coventry bought with their FA Cup profits of 1987, are still involved in the Cup. Terry Butcher, the Coventry manager, said: "Only two players out there who are 100 per cent committed to Coventry, both mentally and physically."

It is understood that Everton will make a bid for the player if Woking, who are also interested in the player, fail to sign him. Goodison Park. The West Bromwich Albion experience has obviously taught them not to count their chickens when Woking are concerned.

The Vauxhall League side,

## ATHLETICS

### Sharpe on the inside looking out

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

HAD it not been for the presence of Tom McKean, David Sharpe would have completed an international title treble at 800 metres last summer. His second place to McKean in the European championship followed world junior and European indoor gold medals won in earlier years.

Today Sharpe begins what he described yesterday as the start of his long climb to the year's summit, the world championships in Tokyo in August. He opens his indoor season in Lievin, France, where the field is led by Dutchman, and Andrey Sudnik, of the Soviet Union.

As well as outdoor, this is a year of indoor championships, but Sharpe put the roofed version of the sport in its place. "It took a European gold medal to make me realise that it is not worth anything," Sharpe said. Commercially speaking, that is.

"You do not get endorsements, you do not get sponsorship money for running," he said. "I am not sure if I can see a clean shirt."

## ICE SKATING

### Duchesnays lead rivals a dance

From JOHN HENNESSY IN SOFIA

CHRISTOPHER Dean, ice cool competitor though he was in his day, could hardly contain his excitement after the original dance in the European championships here yesterday. He had in the seat Isabelle Duchesnay, his fiancée, and her brother Paul, who this section of the competition with a brilliant presentation of the programme that Dean had choreographed to a blues rhythm.

That performance lifted the French couple from third place to joint first with the holders, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarev, of the Soviet Union. A second Soviet couple, Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin, second overall last year, are third.

"I can't believe it," Dean said. The Duchesnays, like Dean and Torville in their time, broke away from the run-of-the-mill and were worthy winners.

Technically the Duchesnays are placed first under the International Skating Union system. But, since they and the holders have accumulated 1.6 points each, they convey a wrong impression. Indeed, the second Soviet couple have an equal chance of the title. They are 0.8 points behind the other two and

## GOLF

### Flanagan undertakes to stay the distance

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

CONFIRMATION yesterday that Joe Flanagan is to remain as executive director of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET) coincided with news that the Ford Classic will be at Woburn on May 2 to 5 after curtain-raising events in Rome and Paris.

"It ensures we start the season with three successive events and I'm still hopeful of finding a tournament for the week after Woburn," Flanagan said. He will remain at the helm until his contract expires in April, 1992, by which time the WPGET board will have appointed his successor.

"My aim and ambition will be to leave the tour in a very healthy state," he said. "I came here to do a job and I will. Whatever personal conflicts there might be, the reality of it is there are 220 girls trying to make a living on the European fair-

## IN BRIEF

### Davis wins doubles

STEVE Davis and Allison Fisher beat Jimmy White and Caroline Walsh 6-3 in the mixed doubles final at the Mita World Masters snooker tournament in Birmingham yesterday. They won the combined first prize of £15,000.

White will attempt to swell his bank balance by £200,000 today when he meets Tony Drago, of Malta, in the men's singles final. White recovered from 8-0 down to beat James Wattana of Thailand, 10-8 in their semi-final.

RUGBY UNION: England Students will form part of Canada's World Cup preparation when they tour there in August. (INTERNATIONAL: July 27 v New Zealand; August 3 v South Africa; August 10 v Argentina; August 17 v Zimbabwe; August 24 v Wales; August 31 v France; September 7 v Ireland; September 14 v Scotland; September 21 v Italy; September 28 v Australia; October 5 v New Zealand; October 12 v South Africa; October 19 v Argentina; October 26 v Zimbabwe; November 2 v Wales; November 9 v France; November 16 v Ireland; November 23 v Scotland; November 30 v Italy; December 7 v Australia; December 14 v New Zealand; December 21 v South Africa; December 28 v Argentina; January 4 v Zimbabwe; January 11 v Wales; January 18 v France; January 25 v Ireland; February 1 v Scotland; February 8 v Italy; February 15 v Australia; February 22 v New Zealand; February 29 v South Africa; March 7 v Argentina; March 14 v Zimbabwe; March 21 v Wales; March 28 v France; April 4 v Ireland; April 11 v Scotland; April 18 v Italy; April 25 v Australia; May 2 v New Zealand; May 9 v South Africa; May 16 v Argentina; May 23 v Zimbabwe; 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## RUGBY UNION

# Orrell well placed as first division heavyweights clash

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the dust clears late this afternoon more giants of English club rugby will have joined Bath on the sidelines of the Pilkington Cup. The draw for the quarter-finals will be made on Monday and four more first-division clubs will be missing, among them two with a substantial cup pedigree, since today Leicester play Wasps and Gloucester meet Harlequins.

All of which will be greeted with glee by Orrell. Their cup record does not bear out the consistency they have shown since announcing their formidable presence on the knockout scene nearly 20 years ago. They have never appeared in a final, but who is to say that this will not be their year?

Asking the question are Newcastle Gosforth, who conceded 76 points when they visited Edge Hall Road in November and that was a friendly. What, one might ask,

will Orrell do when they play for real? Not that comparisons should necessarily be made. Newcastle show eight changes from that day and have grown in confidence with each month.

"You have to be really prepared to take them on up front," Mike Mahoney, Newcastle's director of coaching, said through clenched teeth as he reflected on the poundage of the Orrell forwards. Yet his club has already achieved the targets required by Mahoney at the start of the season — security in the second division of the league and a springboard for their promotion hopes next season.

"We had two seasons of absolute misery," Mahoney said. "People have got to gain confidence in playing and we are gradually getting that. The one thing you have to do when you are turning a corner is make others believe you are on the way up; then they are

prepared to help. I would predict that our playing strength will be much stronger next season.

"We have not been murdered by anyone this season, apart from Orrell when we fielded a lightweight side and paid the penalty. I've given my players a parallel from local football because this season Gateshead, who play about three miles from us, lost 13-0 to a club in the same division. Eight weeks later they played the same club in a cup competition and won. We must think we can do the same."

Orrell, though, are nothing if not formidable on their own ground and are likely to be the only surviving northerners in the draw, as Sheffield must visit Rosslyn Park. Links between the two clubs, who have not met previously, are strong. The late John Reichwald, whose son Bill is Sheffield's captain — and has been for 12 seasons — was a life member at Park, who welcome back the Morley brothers, Jamie (full back) and Kerry (centre), former colts at Rochampton.

It has been an unsettled week for Northampton. Their flanker, Paul Alston, is suspended after a dismissal against Bridgend last weekend, and they lost Nick Dyer, their utility back-five forward, who decided to join Harlequins. They fill the vacancy by moving Tim Rodder from lock to No. 6 against Saracens, whom they have watched with care in recent weeks.

Saracens, who supply eight players to the Eastern Counties XV which plays a century match against a Cambridge University XV tomorrow at Grange Road, lost the league match at Franklin's Gardens 15-6 in September but Paul Bryant, the Northampton coach, dismisses the result as having no relevance to today's cup game.

## TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

## Pilkington Cup

**Bristol v Moseley**  
Bristol desire to make XV until today but no such modesty for Moseley who give Lloyd his first game in the second row for a month. Linnert returns to the front row. Kinnell and Boyle to the threequarters.

**Gloucester v Harlequins**  
Pennis makes his cup debut on Gloucester's wing with Paskall preferred at prop and Topley returning at No. 8. Harlequins pick 11 internationals, including Halliday and Carling at centre.

**Leicester v Wasps**  
Rory Underwood and Richards play in a full-strength Leicester team while Clough plays his first game of the season in the Wasps centre. Buzzs is at full back and Pignam on the wing.

**London Irish v Rugby**  
Hay moves to centre for the Irish in place of the injured Curtis and Concoran comes in. Winchester plays on the flank and Stevens reverts to lock while Rugby include Vaudin (centre) and Ellis at No. 8.

## Northampton v Saracens

Rodder moves to the blind-side flank for Northampton, who have Paskall and Over in their front row and Hunter at full back. Buckton returns to Saracens' centre while Tarnock and Langley should be fit to play in the pack.

**Nottingham v Richmond**  
Nottingham will have Pless in their back row and Gray returns at lock with Hodgkinson at full back. Evans has recovered from a pulled hamstring to play in the centre. Richmond's Williams is at No. 8.

**Orrell v Newcastle G**  
Heslop and Morris take their places in a full-strength Orrell XV and Newcastle Gosforth team while Clough plays his first game of the season in the Wasps centre. Buzzs is at full back and Pignam on the wing.

## Rosslyn Park v Sheffield

Darby the England 8 lock, at full back and Gray returns at lock with Hodgkinson at full back. Evans has recovered from a pulled hamstring to play in the centre. Richmond's Williams is at No. 8.

## Welsh opposition. Then Neath

Welsh opposition. Then Neath lock then unbeaten league record to Llanelli at the Gmoll, where they had not been defeated by a Welsh club for nearly three years. Another defeat at home to Warrington last Friday ended the aura of invincibility surrounding the Welsh All Blacks.

The Neath coach, David Pickering, is realistic about the

# Tired of being the scapegoat

MARC ASPLAND

Should bookmakers be held responsible for racing's financial ills and be asked to put more back into the sport? Peter George, of Ladbroke, talks to Richard Evans

PETER George is horse racing's chief paymaster and does not take kindly to being told by owners, trainers, administrators and industry experts that he should find extra millions from his business to fund their badly-managed sport.

The son and grandson of bookmakers, he joined Ladbroke as a teenager in 1963 and started as a setter. Today, at 47, he is chairman of Ladbroke's racing division, whose 1,939 betting shops and billion-pound turnover makes it the nation's off-course market leader.

His company will forward an estimated £10 million in punters' levy contributions into racing's coffers this year. Yet the almost unanimous cry for bookmakers to give more grows as the sport searches in desperation for a fresh cash injection to alleviate its much-publicised "crisis". George is at the eye of racing's storm and has heard it all before.

"Time and time again — and this is where I object to being constantly the scapegoat — racing seems to pass the buck," George says. "It is too fond of crying 'stinking fish' and has lost a lot of credibility over the years because it has done so."

"It is always looking over its shoulder and saying we need more money and we need it from the bookmakers, instead of actually tackling the issues in a constructive way. Every time there is a wiff of an enquiry, you get this rubbish. And you are seeing it again now."

Next week the latest scrutiny of racing and its finances begins with the Commons horse affairs select committee casting a critical eye over the levy system. The run-up to the parliamentary enquiry has been dominated by racing unanims in saying that the bookmakers do not give enough back to the sport from which they make their profits.

Bookmakers decline to publicise precise profits from racing but say they amount to around three per cent of betting turnover — about £150 million this year. By contrast, an estimated £41.5 million in levy deductions paid by the punter will return to racing and help pay for prize-money, racecourse improvements and running the sport. The Treasury will receive around £340 million from betting duty on off-course racing bets.

George agrees his industry has an obligation and responsibility to contribute towards the sport's finances "because it uses its raw material". So far, so good. The critical question is the size of that contribution. With payments to racecourses (SIS) and other items, he says an extra £13 million of bookmaking money goes back to racing on top of the levy total.



George: removed by the racing industry's latest cry for a greater contribution from bookmakers

He refuses to accept international comparisons which, many argue, show that the main difference between Britain and the rest of the racing world is that most of the profits from betting return to racing and boost prize-money, while here they are taken out of the sport.

"I don't accept international comparisons because, for the most part, they are absolutely meaningless," George says. "People fail to realise that different sets of circumstances, including legislative attitudes to betting, apply in France and differing states in Australia and the US."

"Over a long period of time the bookmaking industry has been successful at convincing Home Office, royal commissions and various other people who have looked at it that it is sufficient."

"If you look at it in terms of any objective financial criteria, and I am talking about Ladbroke — the investment that we have in this business, the investment we continue to make in it, the return we get from it and the amount of money we are paying — then I believe it is fair."

"Should it be a million pounds more or less? I don't know. How do you make that judgment? But I don't think it should be double; I don't

think it should be 50 per cent more; I don't think it should be substantially more."

"Racing and bookmaking could both be better off if they worked together on turnover — generating ideas such as evening opening of betting shops, extra evening racing and a better-balanced fixture list. If we eventually made substantially more profits there is a case to be made for racing getting more, whether through the levy or SIS I don't know."

Years of bitter experience do not encourage George to believe the necessary co-operation will take place. He has a low opinion of the racing industry and its lack of leadership. "I find the racing industry the biggest after-umers in the world. It doesn't matter where you look, they look backwards with 20-20 hindsight and say, 'oh, we should have taken a Tote monopoly in the 1960s; oh, the royal commission should have come up with a different answer; oh, there should or should not be as many racecourses'."

"And then it was SIS, the most important one. If you ever want to see study of how racing has messed things up, how it has after-named itself and is now trying to after-time everybody else, that is it."

He believes racing has failed to take advantage of opportunities at the time they have occurred. "That is the problem with racing. It won't actually face reality. SIS is a company in which racing should have had a much larger stake because it was offered by us. I went to the racing industry and said, 'do you want a 50-50 partnership?' What did racing say? 'No.' But now they say they should own the whole lot because it is a successful business."

George earnestly wants bookmakers to be involved in the discussion over racing's future without dictating to the sport. However, the gap between the two sides seems as wide as ever.

In the meantime he is confident that, yet again, the bookmakers will be vindicated by the forthcoming scrutiny of racing and betting. "There is another myth in the racing industry that bookmakers' lobbying is so successful. At the end of the day your success is only as good as your case."

"The reason bookmaking has come off best, whether in front of the government or a royal commission, is because, when the facts are looked at, our case is proved. That is the only way you can keep winning. If the home affairs select committee is objective, I don't see any change."

## A GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

## FOOTBALL

## FA Cup

## Fourth round

Cambridge v Middlesbrough (all tickets)

Coventry v Southampton

Crewe v Rotherham

Liverpool v Brighton

Luton v West Ham

Manchester United v Bolton (all tickets)

Millwall v Sheffield Wed

Nottingham v Shrewsbury

Nottingham v Shrewsbury

Port Vale v Manchester City (all tickets)

Sheff Wed v Southampton

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## GREAT MILLS LEAGUE

## Premier division

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## SOUTH EAST COAST LEAGUE

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## Quarter-final

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# Toby Tobias poised for revenge

By MANDARIN  
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

NORTON'S Coin and Toby Tobias, who finished first and second in last year's Totie Gold Cup at Cheltenham, renew rivalry for the first time since then in today's Charterhouse Mercantile Chase on the same course.

Today, though, circumstances would appear to favour Toby Tobias, who won the corresponding race 12 months ago when he was also opposed by only three rivals.

Whereas Norton's Coin fell in his only race this season, Toby Tobias put up a sterling performance first time out when runner-up to Desert Orchid at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Celtic Shot, who finished fourth, now has 12 lengths to make up on Toby Tobias. Even if one makes an allowance for the fact that he was not right that day because of a poor blood count, it is still pertinent to add that Toby Tobias looked as if the race would bring him on.

With four victories on the course to his credit already, Kildimo is clearly a capable challenger, but I much prefer Toby Tobias, more especially since Jenny Pittman's stable has begun to run into some sort of form.

Four of Hopscoth's nine wins over hurdles have been gained at Cheltenham. Last time out, though, she ran badly there. Reunited with Peter Scudamore, she could

well prove equal to the task posed by the Food Brokers Finesse Four-Year-Old Hurdle.

Local trainer David Nicholson has set punters a problem by running Al Hashimi in addition to Another Coral in the Arlington Premier Series Chase final.

Some of Al Hashimi's form is arguably the better, but I'm happy to put my trust in Richard Dunwoody's judgement and go along with Another Coral, who has won three times on the course.

While admitting that Past Glories would be hard to beat in the Bishops Cleeve Hurdle if reproducing his third in last year's Champion Hurdle, his only foray this season did not encourage me to think that he

will be up to beating Yorkshire Holly, who excelled when giving King's Curate a stone and narrow beating at Wetherby two days after Christmas. King's Curate franked the form by winning at Ascot afterwards.

Yorkshire Holly could easily become the first leg of a double for Mark Dwyer, since I give him a good chance of winning the following race on Phoenix Gold (3.35).

At Doncaster today, the William Hill Golden Spurs Handicap Chase should be a fine spectacle now that 21 runners have stood their ground.

John Edwards, who won the corresponding race two years ago with Prosperity and his year before that with Bob

## Selections

By Mandarin  
1.0 Burgoyne, 1.30 Rodeo Star, 2.0 Kilibanob, 2.30 Maudslains Cross, 3.0 Tactico, 3.30 Royal Estimate.

By Thunderer  
1.0 Burgoyne, 1.30 RODEO STAR (nap), 2.0 Kilibanob, 2.30 Maudslains Cross, 3.0 Tactico, 3.30 Royal Estimate.

## Going: good (with good to soft in places)

1.0 BARR NOVICES HURDLE (22,162: 2m 6f) (15 runners)  
1.000 BURGOYNE 15 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
2.000 RODEO STAR 14 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
3.000 KILIBANOB 13 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
4.000 MAUDSLAINS CROSS 12 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
5.000 TACTICO 11 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
6.000 ROYAL ESTIMATE 10 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
7.000 PAST GLORIES 9 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
8.000 ANOTHER CORAL 8 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
9.000 AL HASHIMI 7 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
10.000 YORKSHIRE HOLLY 6 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
11.000 PHOENIX GOLD 5 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
12.000 CELTIC SHOT 4 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
13.000 KILIMO 3 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
14.000 DESERT ORCHID 2 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer  
15.000 TOBY TOBIAS 1 (M) M H Easterby 5-11-3, 1 Lwyer

## Course specialists

TRAINERS: M H Easterby, 5 winners from 25 runners, 20.0% G. Burgoyne, 18 from 55, 32.7% N. Rodeo Star, 18 from 42, 42.9% M. Kilibanob, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Maudslains Cross, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Tactico, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Royal Estimate, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Past Glories, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Another Coral, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Al Hashimi, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Yorkshire Holly, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Phoenix Gold, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Celtic Shot, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Kildimo, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Desert Orchid, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Toby Tobias, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Norton's Coin, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Totie Gold, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Charterhouse Mercantile, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Bishops Cleeve, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. William Hill Golden Spurs, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Food Brokers Finesse, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Doncaster, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Wetherby, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Ascot, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Kempton, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. Cheltenham, 18 from 55, 32.7% M. 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# Taurus runs out of time and is put back six months

By COLIN CAMPBELL

INTRODUCTION of the International Stock Exchange's Taurus system, which will streamline share-dealing and lead to share certificates being replaced by bank-style statements, has been delayed at least six months.

John Watson, the Taurus project director, said the original October timetable was demanding. It had not been possible to implement the statutory and regulatory changes to ensure investor protection in time. He added: "The overwhelming view of the industry and the regulatory authori-

ties is that the need to create the right legal and investor protection must take precedence over adherence to the published timetable."

Aspects of Taurus require changes by parliament to the Companies Act and other legislation.

Several companies, including clearing banks, BP and ICI, which had planned to join Taurus in October, were unable to secure shareholders' approval at their 1991 annual meetings in the absence of definitive Taurus regulations.

British and foreign institutions have put

up between £45 million and £50 million to implement Taurus. The stock exchange said yesterday that although paperless share dealings would be postponed until 1992, other aspects of Taurus would be introduced in October.

The exchange added that it was working with the Department of Trade and Industry to finalise regulations. Objections to some of the original proposals are expected to be incorporated in the final regulations, although the Labour party said yesterday that some basic questions remain unanswered, and that the trade

department's inefficiency and incompetence would be raised in the House of Commons "as soon as possible".

The most controversial aspect of Taurus was the disappearance of share certificates. John Cobb, the chairman of the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, said this was a recurring concern in a series of Taurus workshops last year.

He said: "Nevertheless, we welcome this constructive, realistic and practical proposal to defer the implementation of Taurus. It is not the fault of the stock

exchange team working on the project which has met all its deadlines. But there is no point in producing a system if the rules and regulations are in doubt."

More than 60 points of concern emerged from the association's workshop meetings, which were attended by representatives of the trade department and stock exchange.

Some in the City are also concerned that Taurus's computer systems may not be foolproof, said Mr Cobb. He added that, with the project delayed, there would be more time to consider the problems raised by private client brokers.

## IEA calls for fewer controls on BT prices

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRICE controls on British Telecom should be progressively relaxed as competition increases, according to a study from the Institute of Economic Affairs.

However, BT's ability to raise prices should be restricted by a formula geared to the bills of residential customers, it says. The institute believes that with Mercury Communications already challenging BT for big business customers, domestic customers remain vulnerable to BT's monopoly power over local telephone networks. Business interests will be "well able to look after themselves", the study says.

Proposals for a lighter regulatory regime contrast with the increasingly aggressive posture assumed by OfTel, the telecommunications industry regulatory body. BT has threatened to force a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if OfTel goes ahead with proposals to cap the price of international calls and compel "open access", enabling customers to choose Mercury lines to make long-distance calls.

But Sir Bryan Carsberg, OfTel director, has gone on the offensive, arguing that existing agreements leave room for both a cap and equal access.

Professor Michael Beesley, and Bruce Laidlaw, authors of the IEA report, argue that any increase in BT charges should be linked to the bill of the median domestic customer. That would give a high weighting to rental charges, which, although a major element of the median bill, are claimed by BT to be insufficient to cover the cost of providing lines. International charges would be "a small, but growing element" in the control.

The authors believe it unlikely that an effective third force will arise to challenge BT and Mercury.

## Deficit narrows but exports face hard time

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE gap in Britain's visible trade narrowed to £844 million in December, bringing the deficit for the year to £17.9 billion, a fall of nearly £6 billion from the record deficit of 1989, official figures show.

But the improvement was partly offset by a steep fall in the traditional surplus on trade in invisibles, such as banking, insurance and tourism. This produced a current account deficit of £16.1 billion in 1990.

Although well down from the £19.6 billion deficit of 1989, the figure was above the £15.5 billion forecast in the autumn statement and was the second worst deficit on the current account, which covers trade in goods and services.

City economists are concerned that the steam has gone out of exports and fear that much of the progress last year reflected recession at home and slowdown abroad rather than any structural improvement.

The Central Statistical Office said the December deficit on seasonally adjusted visible trade was the lowest since April 1987. It followed a November deficit of £980

million. After climbing steadily in recent months, exports fell to £8.48 billion in December from £8.75 billion in November.

Economists saw this as a sign that demand has slowed in key export markets, while saying that Britain has locked the pound into the exchange-rate mechanism at what is widely perceived to be too high a rate.

Imports, which have been restrained by the government's counter-inflationary policy of suppressing domestic demand, fell to £9.32 billion in December from £9.73 billion in November.

Trade in invisibles is estimated to be in balance, showing zero in the trade figures. In 1990, the invisibles surplus fell to £1.87 billion from £4.22 billion the year before.

Volume data showed a clear improvement over the year. Exports, excluding oil and other erratic goods, such as gems and aircraft, rose 7.5 per cent. Imports, on the same basis, were only 1 per cent higher.

Exports of cars rose 30 per cent between the latest quarters, helping boost exports to the European Community, which rose 5 per cent. In the fourth quarter, volume ex-

ports were 2 per cent up on the previous quarter and 4 per cent higher than in the same quarter of 1989.

Volume imports were 1 per cent down between the latest quarters, but 1.5 per cent up on the final quarter of 1989.

Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said exports volumes had collapsed under the "overvalued pound and increased competitiveness in world markets", noting that lower import volumes of capital goods suggested investment in future production had vanished.

Many City economists expect the recession to allow further narrowing of the current account deficit to about £10 billion this year, but Mr Harnett believes it could remain higher because of 2.5 per cent fall in exports he anticipates in the first half.

A fourth-quarter deficit on manufactured goods of £1.3 billion was the lowest, in value terms, for four years.

The £500 million tranche of tap stock has sold out after only three days, the Bank of England said.

The Bank said it supplied some of the five-year 10 per cent conversion stock at 98, a quarter point above the minimum subscription.

## World oil output nears record

By MARTIN BARROW

GLOBAL oil production rose to near-record levels last year, despite volatility in the Middle East and the loss of supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Total world output was estimated at 3.15 billion tonnes, an average of 65 million barrels a day, according to the *Petroleum Economist* magazine. Output rose 1.19 per cent from 1989 and was only just below the 1979 record of 3.19 billion tonnes.

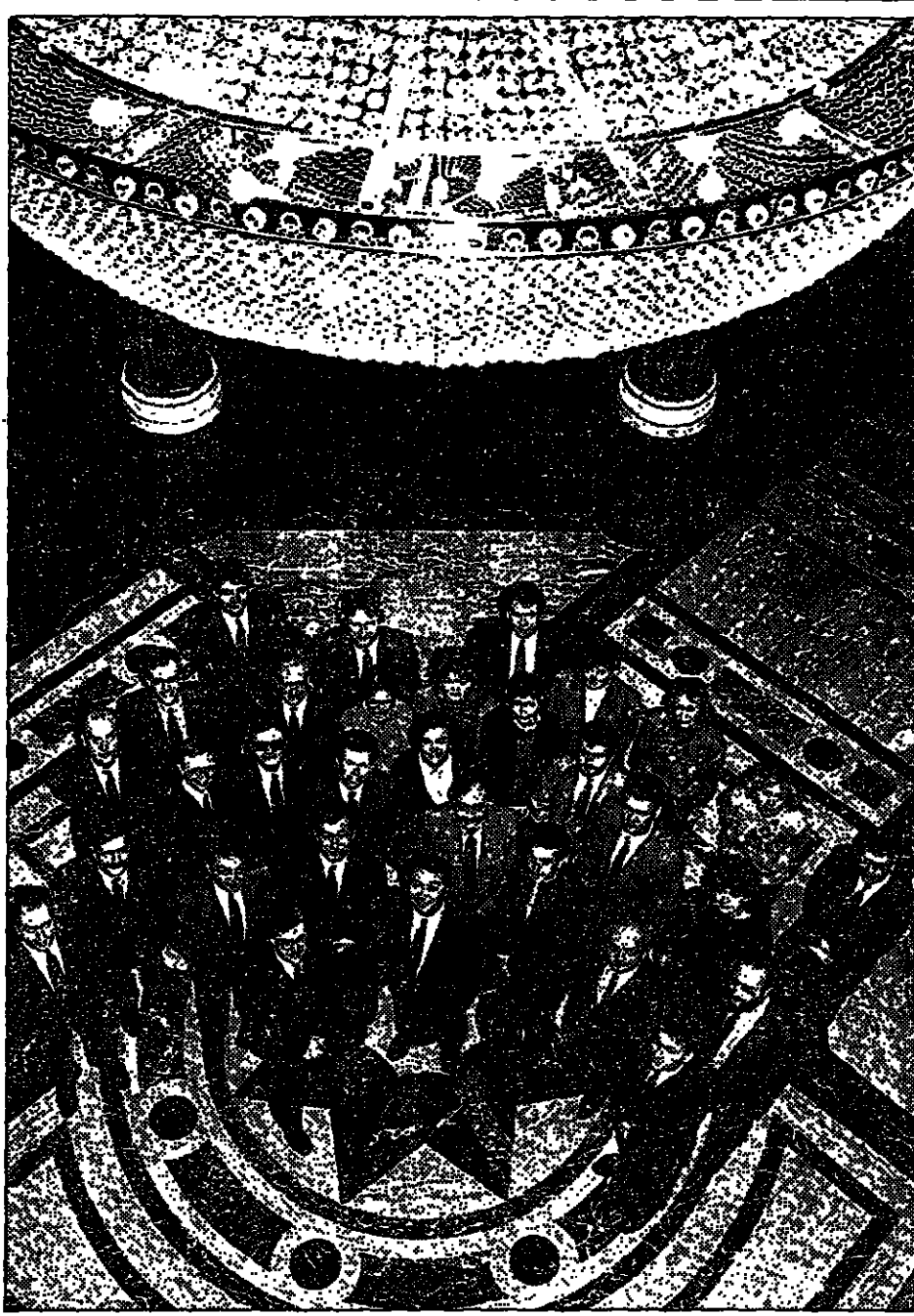
The Soviet Union and America, the two largest producers, fell again, while the Middle East's overall share of output increased. Soviet production fell by 6.2 per cent to 569 million tonnes, or 18 per cent of global output, because of infrastructure problems compounded by the country's acute economic difficulties.

America produced 409 million tonnes of oil, 3.8 per cent less than in 1989, reflecting the maturity of its oilfields. The magazine states that if the Gulf confrontation had not intervened to boost prices in the second half of the year, making previously uneconomic American fields workable, production there would have fallen even further.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries accounted for 1.2 billion tonnes of crude, 38.8 per cent of the total, after raising output by 5.4 per cent year on year. The Middle East saw its share of overall world output rise to 26.2 from 25.95 per cent, producing 825 million tonnes.

Britain held output at 93.5 million tonnes by postponing maintenance work on North Sea platforms. Norway's output rose 8.7 per cent to 81 million tonnes.

Oil prices were steady yesterday as markets awaited further news from the Gulf. In London, North Sea Brent for delivery in March traded at \$20.30 a barrel, virtually unchanged from overnight levels. American energy futures were 19 cents higher at \$21.90.



Nagayoshi Miyata, of Daiwa, (centre front) and the east European central bankers

## Capitalism for beginners

A GROUP of East European central bankers are in the City to learn the workings of Western capitalism (Neil Bennett writes).

Daiwa Europe, the Japanese securities house, is hosting a five-week course for 27 bankers from seven east European countries, including Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

The course covers an introduction to international financial markets, banking

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Nadir stays on as five quit Polly Peck board

THE administrators of Polly Peck International have confirmed the resignation of five directors, including two executives, from the board. But Asil Nadir, the chairman, and David Fawcus, the finance director, are staying on. The two executives who have resigned are Mark Ellis and Rados Reshad. The three non-executives are Ulf Siebel, Niel Mills and Dick Halpin.

Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, said the position of Mr Fawcus "has still to be finalised". Michael Jordan, one of the three administrators, said: "We have parted on very amicable terms with these directors who have offered us full co-operation and assistance in the future if we should need it."

### TSA ban on Hoodless

HOODLESS Brennan Securities of Worthing, West Sussex, was ordered yesterday to stop carrying on investment business by The Securities Association (TSA). The private-client stockbroker is required to settle outstanding bargains as soon as possible. The firm, which has about 1,000 clients, was unable to satisfy TSA's capital requirements.

### More Hoover jobs may go

MORE than 400 jobs could be lost at Hoover's plant at Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, during the next two months. Hoover announced in December that 160 jobs would have to go and yesterday it said another 250 may have to be shed by March. Hoover made record losses of £12 million last year at Merthyr Tydfil.

### New London shortfall

SUB-UNDERWRITERS of the £6 million rights issue by New London, the loss-making oil and gas group, have been left with more than half the stock after the market price fell below the 14p issue price. The seven-for-ten issue, to finance onshore oil and gas assets, straddled the outbreak of war in the Gulf and the subsequent movement in the oil price. The shares fell to 13p and the take-up was 41.6 per cent. The issue, launched at the then market price, was fully subscribed. John Watson, a director of Robert Fleming, the underwriter, said: "We reckoned the issue could be done at that price."

### Adscene slips at half time

ADSCENE Group, publisher of local newspapers, saw pre-tax profits slip to £462,000 (£619,000) in the six months to December 1. The interim dividend is cut from 2p to 0.75p. Sales fell to £9.16 million (£10.6 million) and earnings per share to 1.78p (2.45p). There was an extraordinary write-off of £535,000 on the group's investment in Abberly.

### Interim loss for Shield

SHIELD Group, the residential developer and estate agent, has announced a pre-tax loss of £955,000 for the six months to end-September against a £95,000 profit last time. There is again no ordinary or preference dividend. After property disposals, turnover fell by 38 per cent to £3 million. The loss per ordinary share was 13.2p (2.68p).

### Londonderry mill plan

PLANS for a £90 million pulp mill, employing up to 1,000 in Londonderry have been unveiled. Another 1,000 jobs would be created during its two-year construction. The project would be funded and run as a joint venture between the Lees Group, a private Northern Ireland construction and timber group, and Rauma Group, the Finnish papermaker. Detailed proposals have yet to be put to the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland, but it is expected to provide substantial financial support. The board said 500 full-time jobs would be created at the mill, and as many again in the forestry, timber and service industries.

## US economy shrinks 2.1%

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE American economy declined at an annual rate of 2.1 per cent in the final quarter last year, its sharpest fall since the last recession, commerce department figures showed.

The data gave official support to the widely held view on Wall Street that the economy is in full recession, in part attributable to the inflationary impact of developments in the Gulf since August.

The dramatic decline in the gross national product, measuring overall output of goods and services, was the worst since the 3.2 per cent fall in the third quarter of 1982. The last quarterly decline was in the second quarter of 1986.

Shrinking output reflected general weakness in the economy, including a \$21 billion dollar drop in consumer spending. Improved foreign trade performance, and a Gulf-driven boost to defence spending, were the two areas still showing some strength.

The administration is forecasting further decline in the present quarter, but anticipates recovery in the second

quarter although Gulf developments have created uncertainty over timing. The National Bureau of Economic Research identified the third quarter last year as the most likely point at which the recession began after eight years of expansion, although third-quarter GNP still showed 1.4 per cent growth.

In calendar 1990, the economy showed growth of just 0.9 per cent, its weakest performance since 1982's 2.5 per cent decline. In 1989, the economy grew by 2.5 per cent.

Higher oil prices boosted inflation and cut into consumer spending. The GNP price index, which measures domestic cost inflation, rose at an annual 6.3 per cent in the final quarter, up from 5.1 per cent in the third quarter. But defence spending in the fourth quarter was boosted more than threefold over the previous quarter to an annual \$9.1 billion. Exports rose by 7.8 per cent in the final quarter, while imports decline by 6.3 per cent, reducing the trade gap to under \$23 billion.

## Harsh reality dents the Disney fantasy

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALT Disney's six consecutive years of quarterly profits growth have been broken by events in the Gulf. Uncertainty kept tourists from its theme parks in California and Florida during the final three months of last year, depressing earnings 15 per cent, and analysts fear the parks will be hit even harder in the three months ending in March.

Disney says lower attendance and higher development spending for its "Disney Decade" promotion hurt earnings. But the overall result was helped by the success of films and videos such as *Pretty Woman*, *Duck Tails*, *Three Men and a Little Lady*, *Rescuers Down Under* and a re-release of *Fantasia*, which together boosted film and video profits 19 per cent.

Paul Marsh, entertainment analyst with the Los Angeles office of Kemper Securities Group, said: "These results are not a thrill and the company has been using its balance sheet to buy back its own shares which is why the earnings per share have gone up."

"For the first time, revenue from the films - I think largely from *Pretty Woman* - has exceeded the theme parks for that quarter. I think earnings this year will be flat and we may have to lower expectations if the recession continues and the Gulf War is



Feeling the pinch: Disney's Mickey Mouse and Pluto

prolonged," he said. Mr Marsh expects this year's profits to be \$837 million against \$822 million for the year to last September. This month, Disney announced the first cut in admission prices at its flagship Disneyland park in Anaheim, California, to boost attendances. Profits from Disney's three major theme parks usually account for between two-thirds and three-quarters of the total. In the three months to the

publishing and expansion of Disney Stores, to more than 80.

Overall, profits were \$170.4 million against \$174.4 million on revenues up 16 per cent to \$1.49 billion. The profits fall coincides with Michael Eisner, chairman, also becoming chief executive, and Frank Wells, president, also becoming chief operating officer. Three years ago they took out more than \$72 million between them in pay, bonuses and stock options. In 1988, salary and bonuses totalled \$11.2 million. Last year, on pay alone, the two took almost \$15 million. Disney's shares, down almost \$2 overnight, rallied \$2.5 on Wall Street yesterday to \$102. But the rise is thought to reflect quick buying by investors who sold the shares short thinking they would plunge on the profits news. Christopher Dixon, entertainment analyst with Kidder Peabody in New York, said the results were disappointing. "We are starting to see the effects of the recession on the theme parks. That trend is going to continue until the conflict in the Middle East is resolved."

Analysts do not expect the downturn to affect Disney's plans for the opening of the Euro theme park in Paris in 1992, or talks that may lead it to take a stake in Television South, as a result of a proposal to buy MTM, TV's Hollywood production arm.

gentlemen  
re's blood  
air hands

### Business Editor John Bell

#### THE FOUR

US dollar

1.9590 (-0.0005)

German mark

2.9180 (+0.0069)

Exchange index

94.4 (same)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1645.0 (+2.6)

FT-SE 100

2103.0 (+3.7)

New York Dow Jones

2662.62 (+19.55)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

23573.25 (+304.24)

Closing Prices ... Page 33

#### Major indices and major changes

Page 30

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%

3-month interbank 14 7/8-15 1/8%

3-month eligible bills 13 1/2-13 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 9 1/2%

Federal Funds 7 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bill 6 1/8-6 17/8%

30-year bonds 106 1/2-108 1/2

#### CURRENCIES

London: New York:

\$1 82/80

DM 1 87/73

DM 1 48/95

DM 1 48/95

DM 1 48/95

DM 1 48/95

DM 1 48/95

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DM 1 48/95

DM 1 48/95

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## Finland to protest over ICI bid ruling

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FINLAND will protest to the British over its decision not to let Kemira, Finland's state-owned chemicals group, buy ICI's fertiliser business.

Ilkka Suominen, the Finnish trade minister, will write to the government, probably next week, to complain. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission turned down the deal on Wednesday, and the trade department said it accepted the MMC's opinion that the deal would be against the public interest.

Kemira considers the decision to block the bid "rather silly". Both Suominen, assistant vice-president group communication, said the ruling had been "something of a disappointment" for Kemira, but did not see that anything could be done about it now.

On the crucial issue of market share, he said it was difficult to say what constituted too much, or too little, of the British market.

He recalled that in talks with the trade department, the Finns had submitted an estimate that the acquisition of the ICI plants would have boosted Kemira's market share from 18 to 35 per cent, not the 40 per cent-plus figure in the MMC report.

Mr Suominen said Kemira could hardly have been expected to secure all of ICI's market share by taking over two of its plants. Rival firms would have been likely to build up their market too.

In contrast to ICI, Kemira's European and British fertiliser business is profitable. Mr Suominen said, attributing this to its early expansion in the sector, which has given it the necessary critical mass.

## HK Bank sounds warning after loss at US subsidiary

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp has warned the market that profits in 1990 will be substantially lower than for 1989. Hongkong has 14.9 per cent of Britain's Midland Bank.

The warning came after poor results from Marine Midland, its wholly owned American offshoot. The New York-based regional bank reported a net loss of US\$164.3 million for the year to end-December, compared with net profits of US\$13.9 million in 1989.

The Hongkong Bank warning came after it declared a second interim dividend of 26

cents. The dividend, in line with the bank's forecast, is proposed in place of a final dividend because of a move to restructure the bank under a holding company in London. It makes a total of 39 cents for the year, up 2.1 per cent. Final results will be announced in March.

The bank said: "As fore-shadowed in the interim report, the world economic downturn in 1990 contributed to a difficult year for international banks. The group's results will unfortunately reflect this."

"In the United Kingdom economic conditions have

worsened since the date of the interim report. The level of provisions required against corporate lending will give rise to poor results being recorded by the bank's commercial banking business there."

The Marine Midland figures were significantly worse than expected. This is only one of three loss-making operations hurting Hongkong Bank, which is chaired by William Purves.

The Hongkong Bank of Australia has been in the red since 1989 and is forecast to suffer substantial losses in 1990. In Britain, James Capel, the broker, is still unprofitable.

Marine Midland attributes its losses to the deteriorating economy and commercial property market in America and bad loans to Brazil.

Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia, the broker, is now predicting a 30 per cent drop in Hongkong Bank net profits to HK\$3.33 billion (£218 million), down from a 22 per cent fall in 1989.

The bank revealed that provisions had had to be made in connection with a number of loans to projects in China. It did not specify what the projects were.

Its shares rose 15 cents to HK\$5. They have shed about 12 per cent since the August announcement of a 21 per cent plunge in interim profits.

"In the absence of unforeseen circumstances, present indications are that the group will report profits in 1990 in excess of the total amount of the dividends for the year," the bank said.



Facing problems: bank chairman William Purves

## Loss-making Alpine restructures capital

ALPINE Group, the loss-making soft drinks group, has announced a capital restructuring, including a write down of the nominal value of its shares and a rights issue.

The nominal value of the company's ordinary 10p shares is being written down to 0.5p and, subject to court approval, reconstituted as 5p

shares. Shareholders will therefore receive one new ordinary share of 5p for every ten ordinary 10p shares held.

The group aims to raise £984,494 via rights. One new ordinary share of 2.5p will be given for each 10p share, at a subscription price of 5p. The 2.5p shares will later be consolidated into 5p

## Exchange in talks to stop Jardine delisting

From A CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING official of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has revealed he is having talks with Jardine Matheson Holdings in an attempt to avert a decision by the British company to delist from the colony.

Jardine is the oldest and largest British group in Hong Kong, with property, trading, retail and financial services interests. It recently gave warning that it might move its primary listing out of Hong Kong, as it has done with its legal domicile and an increasing portion of its multi-billion assets, unless it was granted an "exempt listing" on the stock exchange.

Francis Yuen, chief executive of the exchange, declined to give details of the talks but said if Jardine chose to delist, it would be a commercial rather than political decision.

Simon and Henry Keswick, the brothers who control the group from London, arrived for the discussions this week amid feverish speculation in Jardine shares.

The shares, which have been hit by the talk of delisting, rose HK\$1.3 to HK\$27.9 yesterday.

Jardine officials have been strong critics of the authorities' moves to restrict the freedoms of overseas-domiciled companies.

The call for a rethink follows attempts this week by

## Exporters seek EC reinsurance agency

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EXPORTERS have called on the government to help set up an agency to offer political risk reinsurance in the European Community instead of withdrawing support in Britain.

The British Exporters Association is also concerned that the planned privatisation of the short-term business arm of the Export Credits Guarantee Department could create a private monopoly.

The call for a rethink follows attempts this week by

Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, to assuage City fears that the government plans to drop reinsurance for short-term exports to politically risky markets, such as the Soviet Union and the Third World.

Mr Sainsbury indicated that the government would retain reinsurance facilities after a proposed three-year transition period following the ECGD privatisation this summer, but has given no guarantees.

The BEA is concerned that about £4 billion of British exports to countries outside the leading industrialised

economies will be in jeopardy if official reinsurance disappears in Britain, while other EC governments continue to provide support.

John Hollows, the deputy chairman of the BEA, said his association is worried that the private market for political risk reinsurance does not, and will not, have the capacity to underwrite risk currently covered by the ECGD at Cardiff.

He said: "We are concerned therefore that the effect of the government's intentions will be to reduce cover available to exporters and increase the

price of cover available to them." Given the ECGD's experience in political risk reinsurance, Britain would be ideally placed to take a leadership role, Mr Hollows added.

A study by the Credit Insurance Association, a British trade house shows about 70 per cent of British exporters in favour of delaying the ECGD privatisation until the move is required by the EC. Mr Hollows said BEA was "concerned that the effect of privatisation could be a monopoly in the UK for the provision of credit insurance."

### MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
Costain 162½p (+6p)  
Taylor Woodrow 225p (+6p)  
ICI 888p (+10p)  
Laporte 488½p (+7p)  
BTR 512p (+7p)  
United Biscuits 331½p (+7p)

FALLS:  
Aldi Lyons 480p (-17p)  
Besa 307½p (-45p)  
BICC 340p (-45p)  
Grand Met 622½p (-18p)  
Guinness 718½p (-37p)  
Whitbread 409p (-39p)  
RMC Group 69p (-5p)  
Hilldown 188½p (-7p)  
Charterhouse 402½p (-9p)  
THF 755p (-10p)  
Savoy Hotels 227p (-10p)  
Ladbrokes 200½p (-10p)

### MAJOR INDICES

New York 2662.62 (+19.55)  
Dow Jones 336.52 (+2.04)  
S&P Composite 2373.25 (+304.24)  
Tokyo Nikkei Average 2373.25 (+304.24)  
Hong Kong Hang Seng 3208.38 (+65.88)  
FT-SE 100 2797.15 (+18.00)  
Amsterdam CBS Tendency 79.7 (+0.7)  
Sydney AO 1295.6 (+27.1)  
Frankfurt DAX 1382.05 (+6.89)  
Brussels General 4822.15 (+13.95)  
Paris CAC 4175.15 (+2.59)  
Zurich S&K Gen 457.4 (+1.1)  
London FT-A All Share 1006.76 (+1.80)  
FT-300 1108.25 (+0.94)  
FT-100 146.7 (-4.5)  
FT-1000 115.4 (-0.02)  
FT-10000 84.33 (+0.11)  
Barrage 3254  
USM (Datastream) 112.04 (+0.30)  
Denotes latest trading price

### UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E	1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
74	23	22	AGI	23	0	-	-	228	175	82	Southam	175	0	-	-
143	24	23	AGI	24	0	-	-	245	88	87	Green (Soc)	88	0	-	-
259	25	24	AGI	25	0	-	-	259	90	89	Greenwood	90	0	-	-
269	26	25	AGI	26	0	-	-	269	91	90	Greenwood	91	0	-	-
289	28	27	AGI	28	0	-	-	289	92	91	Greenwood	92	0	-	-
299	29	28	AGI	29	0	-	-	299	93	92	Greenwood	93	0	-	-
309	30	29	AGI	30	0	-	-	309	94	93	Greenwood	94	0	-	-
319	31	30	AGI	31	0	-	-	319	95	94	Greenwood	95	0	-	-
329	32	31	AGI	32	0	-	-	329	96	95	Greenwood	96	0	-	-
339	33	32	AGI	33	0	-	-	339	97	96	Greenwood	97	0	-	-
349	34	33	AGI	34	0	-	-	349	98	97	Greenwood	98	0	-	-
359	35	34	AGI	35	0	-	-	359	99	98	Greenwood	99	0	-	-
369	36	35	AGI	36	0	-	-	369	100	99	Greenwood	100	0	-	-
379	37	36	AGI	37	0	-	-	379	101	100	Greenwood	101	0	-	-
389	38	37	AGI	38	0	-	-	389	102	101	Greenwood	102	0	-	-
399	39	38	AGI	39	0	-	-	399	103	102	Greenwood	103	0	-	-
409	40	39	AGI	40	0	-	-	409	104	103	Greenwood	104	0	-	-
419	41	40	AGI	41	0	-	-	419	105	104	Greenwood	105	0	-	-
429	42	41	AGI	42	0	-	-	429	106	105	Greenwood	106	0	-	-
439	43	42	AGI	43	0	-	-	439	107	106	Greenwood	107	0	-	-
449	44	43	AGI	44	0	-	-	449	108	107	Greenwood	108	0	-	-
459	45	44	AGI	45	0	-	-	459	109	108	Greenwood	109	0	-	-
469	46	45	AGI	46	0	-	-	469	110	109	Greenwood	110	0	-	-
479	47	46	AGI	47	0	-	-	479	111	110	Greenwood	111	0	-	-
489	48	47	AGI	48	0	-	-	489	112	111	Greenwood	112	0	-	-
499	49	48	AGI	49	0	-	-	499	113	112	Greenwood	113	0	-	-
509	50	49	AGI	50	0	-	-	509	114	113	Greenwood	114	0	-	-
519	51	50	AGI	51	0	-	-	519	115	114	Greenwood	115	0	-	-
529	52	51	AGI	52	0	-	-	529	116	115	Greenwood	116	0	-	-
539	53	52	AGI	53	0	-	-	539	117	116	Greenwood	117	0	-	-
549	54	53	AGI	54	0	-	-	549	118	117	Greenwood	118	0	-	-
559	55	54	AGI	55	0	-	-	559	119	118	Greenwood	119	0	-	-
569	56	55	AGI	56	0	-	-	569	120	119	Greenwood	120	0	-	-
579	57	56	AGI	57	0	-	-	579	121	120	Greenwood	121	0	-	-
589	58	57	AGI	58	0	-	-	589	122	121	Greenwood	122	0	-	-
599	59	58	AGI	59	0	-	-	599	123	122	Greenwood	123	0	-	-
609	60	59	AGI	60	0	-	-	609	124	123	Greenwood	124	0	-	-
619	61	60	AGI	61	0	-	-	619	125	124	Greenwood	125	0	-	-
629	62	61	AGI	62	0	-	-	629	126	125	Greenwood	126	0	-	-
639	63	62	AGI	63	0	-	-	639	127	126	Greenwood	127	0	-	-
649	64	63	AGI	64	0	-	-	649	128	127	Greenwood	128	0	-	-
659	65	64	AGI	65	0	-	-	659	129	128	Greenwood	129	0	-	-
669	66	65	AGI	66	0	-	-	669	130	129	Greenwood	130	0	-	-
679	67	66	AGI	67	0	-	-	679	131	130	Greenwood	131	0	-	-
689	68	67	AGI	68	0	-	-	689	132	131	Greenwood	132	0	-	-
699	69	68	AGI	69	0	-	-	699	133	132	Greenwood	133	0	-	-
709	70	69	AGI	70	0	-	-	709	134	133	Greenwood	134	0	-	-
719	71	70	AGI	71	0	-	-	719	135	134	Greenwood	135	0	-	-
729	72	71	AGI	72	0	-	-	729	136	135	Greenwood	136	0	-	-
739	73	72	AGI	73	0	-	-	739	137	136	Greenwood	137	0	-	-
749	74	73	AGI	74	0	-	-	749	138	137	Greenwood	138	0	-	-
759	75	74	AGI	75	0	-	-	759	139	138	Greenwood	139	0	-	-
769	76	75	AGI	76	0	-	-	769	140	139	Greenwood	140	0	-	-
779	77	76	AGI	77	0	-	-	779	141	140	Greenwood	141	0	-	-
789	78	77	AGI	78	0	-	-	789	142	141	Greenwood	142	0	-	-
799	79	78	AGI	79	0	-	-	799	143	142	Greenwood	143	0	-	-
809	80	79	AGI	80	0	-	-	809	144	143	Greenwood	144	0	-	-
819	81	80	AGI	81	0	-	-	819	145	144	Greenwood	145	0	-	-
829	82	81	AGI	82	0	-	-	829	146	145	Greenwood	146	0	-	-
839	83	82	AGI	83	0	-	-	839	147	146	Greenwood	147	0	-	-
849	84	83	AGI	84	0	-	-	849	148	147	Greenwood	148	0	-	-
859	85	84	AGI	85	0	-	-	859	149	148	Greenwood	149	0	-	-
869	86	85	AGI	86	0	-	-	869	150	149	Greenwood	150	0	-	-
879	87	86	AGI	87	0	-	-	879	151	150	Greenwood	151	0	-	-
889	88	87	AGI	88	0	-	-	889	152	151	Greenwood	152	0	-	-
899	89	88	AGI	89	0	-	-	899	153	152	Greenwood	153	0	-	-
909	90	89	AGI	90	0	-	-	909	154	153	Greenwood	154	0	-	-
919	91	90	AGI	91	0	-	-	919	155	154	Greenwood	155	0	-	-
929	92	91	AGI	92	0	-	-	929	156	155	Greenwood	156	0	-	-
939	93	92	AGI	93	0	-	-	939	157	156	Greenwood	157	0	-	-
949	94	93	AGI	94	0	-	-	949	158	157	Greenwood	158	0	-	-
959	95	94	AGI	95	0	-	-	959	159	158	Greenwood	159	0	-	-
969	96	95	AGI	96	0	-	-	969	160	159	Greenwood	160	0	-	-
979	97	96	AGI	97	0	-	-	979	161	160	Greenwood	161	0	-	-
989	98	97	AGI	98	0	-	-	989	162	161	Greenwood	162	0	-	-
999	99	98	AGI	99	0	-	-	999	163	162	Greenwood	163	0	-	-
1009	100	99	AGI	100	0	-	-	1009	164	163	Greenwood	164	0	-	-
1019	101	100	AGI	101	0	-	-	1019	165	164	Greenwood	165	0	-	-
1029	102	101	AGI	102	0	-	-	1029	166	165	Greenwood	166	0	-	-
1039	103	102	AGI	103	0	-	-	1039	167	166	Greenwood	167	0	-	-
1049	104	103	AGI	104	0	-	-	1049	168	167	Greenwood	168	0	-	-
1059	105	104	AGI	105	0	-	-	1059	169	168	Greenwood	169	0	-	-
1069	106	105	AGI	106	0	-	-	1069	170	169	Greenwood	170	0	-	-
1079	107	106	AGI	107	0	-	-	1079	171	170	Greenwood	171	0	-	-
1089	108	107	AGI	108	0	-	-	1089	172	171	Greenwood	172	0	-	-
1099	109	108	AGI	109	0	-	-	1099	173	172	Greenwood	173	0	-	-
1109	110	109	AGI	110	0	-	-	1109	174	173	Greenwood	174	0	-	-
1119	111	110	AGI	111	0	-	-	1119	175	174	Greenwood	175	0	-	-
1129	112	111	AGI	112	0	-	-	1129	176	175	Greenwood	176	0	-	-
1139	113	112	AGI	113	0	-	-	1139	177	176	Greenwood	177	0	-	-
1149	114	113	AGI	114	0	-	-	1149	178	177	Greenwood	178	0	-	-
1159	115	114	AGI	115	0	-	-	1159	179	178	Greenwood	179	0	-	-
1169	116	115	AGI	116	0	-	-	1169	180	179	Greenwood	180	0	-	-
1179	117	116	AGI	117	0	-	-	1179	181	180	Greenwood	181	0	-	-
1189	118	117	AGI	118	0	-	-	1189	182	181	Greenwood	182	0	-	-
1199	119	118	AGI	119	0	-	-	1199	183	182	Greenwood	183	0	-	-
1209	120	119	AGI	120	0	-	-	1209	184	183	Greenwood	184	0	-	-
1219	121	120	AGI	121	0	-	-	1219	185	184	Greenwood	185	0	-	-
1229	122	121	AGI	122	0	-	-	1229	186	185	Greenwood	186	0	-	-
1239	123	122	AGI	123	0	-	-	1239	187	186	Greenwood	187	0	-	-
1249	124	123	AGI	124	0	-	-	1249	188	187	Greenwood	188	0	-	-
1259	125	124	AGI	125	0	-	-	1259	189	188	Greenwood	189	0	-	-
1269	126	125	AGI	126	0	-	-	1269	190	189	Greenwood	190	0	-	-
1279	127	126	AGI	127	0	-	-	1279	191	190	Greenwood	191	0	-	-
1289	128	127	AGI	128	0	-	-	1289	192	191	Greenwood	192	0	-	-
1299	129	128	AGI	129	0	-	-	1299	193	192	Greenwood	193	0	-	-
1309	130	129	AGI	130	0	-	-	1309	194	193	Greenwood	194	0	-	-
1319	131	130	AGI	131	0	-	-	1319	195	194	Greenwood	195	0	-	-
1329	132	131	AGI	132	0	-	-	1329	196	195	Greenwood	196	0	-	-
1339	133	132	AGI	133											















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THE M&G PEP

## Home income fight for elderly

ELDERLY people should be able to earn a larger income from the value of their home if a campaign succeeds to improve the tax position on home income plans (Sara McConnell writes).

Age Concern, the charity, has launched a campaign to press for tax relief to be allowed on mortgage repayments of up to £60,000 taken out as part of a home income plan. Currently 30,000 people have taken on such schemes involving a loan against the value of their property.

Age Concern believes that many more would like to use such schemes if they could earn a greater income from them. However, with tax relief limited to loans of up to £30,000 this makes it impossible to achieve.

Mortgage annuity plans allow people aged 65 or over to earn a regular income from their home by taking out a mortgage and using the money to buy an annuity. The income from the annuity pays off the interest on the mortgage, leaving home owners any remaining income to use as they like. Mortgage rates can be variable or fixed. If the rate is fixed, insurers providing such a scheme, including Allchurches Life, Carlyle Life and Allied Dunbar, also pay out a lower income from the annuity.

Cecil Hinton, managing director of Hinton & Wild, a



Laughing for the rest of their lives: Ethel and Clarence Howell at their Kent home.

home income plan specialist, said: "The fixed interest rate looks good but it is counter-balanced by a lower annuity rate to keep rates stable."

Variable rate schemes were risky because if interest rates went up, all of a home owner's monthly income could be used repaying the mortgage, he added. However, the campaign for tax concessions would include both fixed and variable rates.

Many plan holders would be keen to increase their loan if they could obtain tax relief

on repayments. Terence and Lilian Jeffery of Plymouth, Devon, took out a loan of £30,000 against their £47,000 property in 1986 when they were aged 75 and 72. This bought them an annuity that pays them £107 a month.

However, Mr Jeffery said: "With inflation our expenses rise all the time and we would like to increase our plan benefits based on the increased property value."

Others are content with the income they already have. Clarence and Ethel Howell of

Northfleet, Kent, took out a fixed mortgage annuity 18 months ago when they were aged 78 and 77. They say the monthly income of £128.39 from an annuity taken out with a £30,000 mortgage on their £98,000 home has eased money worries.

Mr Howell, a retired work study engineer, said: "We can go out and buy things without worrying about whether we can afford it. Without the income holidays would be out because we have a fixed income and I have a fixed

pension." The Howells' scheme is underwritten by Carlyle Life and arranged by Hinton & Wild.

With tax relief limited to the first £30,000 of a loan, it is not worthwhile for people to take out a mortgage for more than this. The mortgage repayments not eligible for tax relief would use up too much of the income from the annuity.

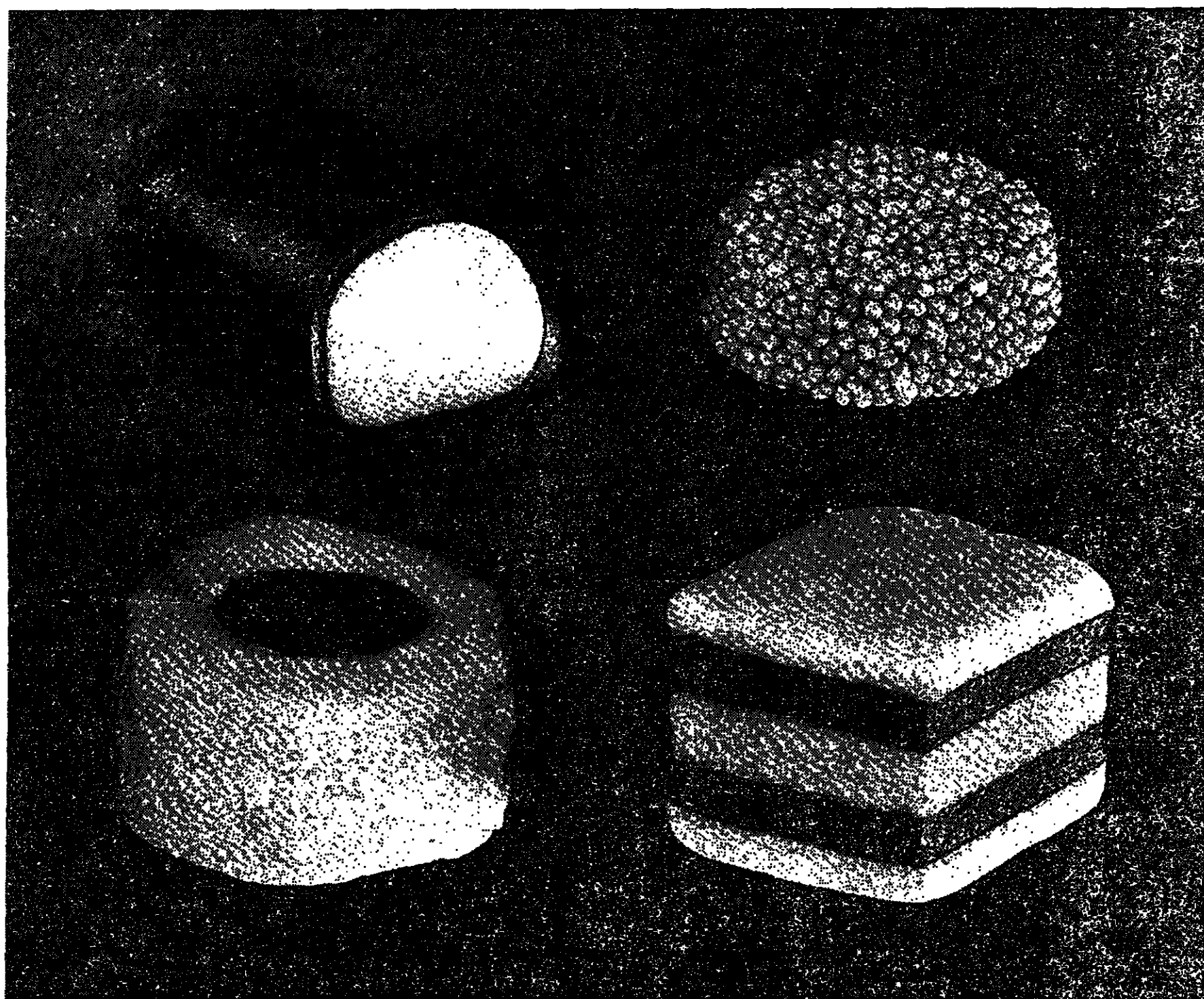
Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, said that since the amount of loan allowed for tax relief was raised from £25,000 to £30,000 in 1983, the average house price had risen from £28,000 to more than £60,000. The income elderly people can obtain from their home is therefore proportionately smaller as house prices rise.

"We are not asking for a handout, only an increase for people who own their own home," said Lady Greengross.

"The government has urged people to consider raising money from their own homes and a mortgage annuity is the safest way of doing this. The government view is that older people should be encouraged to stay in their own homes as long as possible."

Cecil Hinton, of Hinton & Wild, estimated the cost of tax relief on mortgage payments for these plans at £1 million-£2 million a year against £7 billion paid out in mortgage tax relief to home buyers.

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\*All rates are net of income tax. <sup>1</sup>On the first £10,000 of the balance. <sup>2</sup>On the first £2,500 of the balance. <sup>3</sup>On the first £250 of the balance. Rates may vary but will be correct at the time of going to press.

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## Stay ahead of the game by buying an annuity now

By SARA MCCONNELL

NEWLY retired people or others looking to buy an annuity for regular income should consider buying now rather than waiting until interest rates have fallen.

Annuity rates drop when interest rates fall because they are based on fixed-interest securities and gilt yields. At the moment annuity rates are high because of high interest rates. Those buying an annuity with a lump sum, perhaps from pension contributions, will be able to lock themselves into a high regular income for life regardless of how low rates move in the future.

When interest rates dipped below 8 per cent in the spring of 1988, the best annual income a male aged 65 could expect from a £10,000 annuity was £1,401.04 a year from RNPFS. A woman aged 60 would have received £1,230 a year from National Provident Institution.

In December, when bank base rates were 14 per cent, a male aged 65 would have had an income of £1,547 a year from a £10,000 annuity from Co-operative Insurance. A woman aged 60 would have

received £1,335 a year from the same source.

Mike Orway, managing director of WI Carr Financial Services, said: "If interest rates and inflation fall, annuity rates will fall. Last summer we encouraged people to retire early for better annuity rates."

However, other specialists said many people would not be able to afford to retire early, losing salary and pension contributions, in order to obtain a better annuity rate.

Bill Wilkinson, pensions manager at Sun Alliance, said: "Some people retiring will have no income except from an annuity. They do not have the luxury of being able to wait for high interest rates. People using a lump sum from redundancy or forced into early retirement have a restricted choice of when to invest."

Annuity rates depend on age and sex, so the older people are when they buy an annuity, the higher the income will be as the insurance company does not have to pay out for so long. Similarly because women have a longer life expectancy than men, they receive less income.

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

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LETTERS

Charges for the cost of errors

From Mr John Johnson.  
Sir, Charging a bank for its blunders (Mr M. Charlish, January 19) is something which I have already succeeded in doing!

On moving house two years ago my bank, the National Westminster, made a number of errors in handling change of address, direct debits for insurance policies, and the like. I wrote to the branch manager informing him of the considerable time I had had to spend on correcting their errors, and requested a nominal £10 be credited to my account to cover this inconvenience.

The manager replied a few days later to confirm that £10 had been credited to my account not as compensation but "credits against bank charges" (which I never incur!!)

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN JOHNSON,  
78 Gladbeck Way,  
Enfield,  
Middlesex,  
January 20.

Charlish and Mr Broomfield for commercial organisations to bear the same responsibility for the costs of their errors as they expect their customers to accept when the latter are at fault.

Recent experiences with the Sun Alliance and the Laurentian Life organisations have convinced me that neither spends time training staff in basic administrative practices, nor do they appear to have a monitoring system to check on the actions or inactions of juniors.

While these difficulties have not so far involved me in much expense, the time I have spent in attempts to remedy the companies' shortcomings has been significant. A financial recognition of efforts such as these by a customer, when the faults lie entirely at the company's door, would be welcome. Also, as your correspondents suggest, such action would be morally justifiable.

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. J. DEW,  
The Birches,  
Hillyfields Way,  
Winscombe, Avon.



Ged.

Visa voucher

From Mr Gordon Dennis.  
Sir, The (dis)benefits of Barclaycard are not, I have found, restricted to those who actually have an account and pay the annual charge.

When the levy was introduced last year, I destroyed my card (by cutting, naturally)

and cancelled my account. Four days ago I received a statement showing a payment of £15, made to the Literary Review; a sum which was due as payment for a year's subscription which was begun last March. The eccentric, courteous but somewhat tardy journal had not presented the voucher until 24 December.

I rang Barclaycard. I was told that when a signed voucher was presented, even one bearing the number of an account which had been cancelled, it would be paid and charged.

How can you be charged on an account you do not have? What are the opportunities for the fraudulent?

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON DENNIS,  
Ramble,  
The Green,  
Standlake,  
Witney, Oxfordshire.

Cause to be lenient with expatriates fleeing Saddam's war

From Mr John D. Lewis.  
Sir, "They cannot keep accommodation available for use in Britain" is surely the telling comment in your report (January 19) that expatriates from Kuwait and elsewhere, forced to break the Inland Revenue's rules, will be obliged to pay UK income tax on overseas earnings.

The crimes of Saddam Hussein receive wide publicity but little has been given to the

terrible domestic upheaval in the lives of thousands of innocents displaced from home and occupation. There were reports of some rejoicing when large parties of men, women and children were tipped on to the tarmac at Heathrow and Gatwick but few enquired of their immediate prospects: accommodation, schooling, jobs — whole careers in fact. As a one-time expatriate myself the faces of

many of them told me of the real anguish faced, apart from a tax bill.

You say that the Inland Revenue is allowed to be lenient. There can seldom have been a better case. And if the bill is faced by Saddam Hussein so much the better.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN D. LEWIS,  
24 Edlyn Close,  
Berkhamsted,  
Hertfordshire.

BRIEFINGS

THE TSB is the last major clearing bank to launch a tax exempt special savings account (Tessa). The TSB Tessa will pay 14 per cent interest a year tax free. Savers who keep their account intact for the five-year term will receive a loyalty bonus of 5 per cent of the total interest. At current rates the maximum maturity value would be £14,781, including a £275 terminal bonus.

□ National & Provincial Building Society has raised its Tessa rates but has also increased its penalty for transferring to another account from £10 to £50. Most customers will earn 14.5 per cent, up from 13.5 per cent. Those depositing the maximum lump sum in a Tessa each year and taking annual interest will

receive 15 per cent, up from 13.5 per cent, earning them a sum of £14,990 after five years.

□ The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is to increase the rate on its Flexi-Tessa to 14.5 per cent on February 1 and at the same time will withdraw its Maxi-Tessa linked to the Cheltenham Gold account and paying 13.67 per cent. The Yorkshire Bank has increased the rate on its Tessa account by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent and will pay a loyalty bonus at the end of five years equal to 2 per cent of the capital invested.

□ Firstdirect, the telephone banking service, is offering first-time buyers and new customers a 1 per cent discount on its current mortgage rate of 14.5 per cent for the

first 12 months of the mortgage. The 13.5 per cent discount is available on endowment, pension and repayment mortgages and the minimum loan is £60,000.

□ The Portman Building Society is cutting its 14.5 per cent mortgage rate for first-time buyers by 2 per cent to 12.5 per cent for the first 12 months of the loan. Borrowers have to take out an endowment policy with Scottish Life.

□ The Nationwide Building Society will pay 9.75 per cent net, 13 per cent gross, on FlexiAccount balances of more than £25,000, an increase of 1 per cent. Balances of between £5,000 and £25,000 will earn 9 per cent net, 12 per cent gross.

□ An insurance scheme to pay school fees in the event of the death of a parent is being

offered through schools by Montague Educational Services, the London broker. Premiums start at £40 a term and there are no exclusions.

□ Two helplines set up by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society aim to help borrowers in difficulty with high mortgage bills. Borrowers can phone 0800 591583, the society's Yorkshire head office, or 0800 181557 for the Southeast regional office.

□ Investors in the privatisation of National Power and PowerGen will be offered a discount on the second instalment of £8 for every £100 invested up to a maximum of £280, or a one for ten share bonus up to a maximum of £700. A decision on whether the flotation will go ahead will be made next month.

Protection for Lloyd's names

From Mr Michael Wade.  
Sir, Your interesting article written by Lindsay Cook in The Times (January 19) makes reference to the circumstances of Lord Alexander in relation to underwriting membership of Lloyd's.

I have the greatest sympathy for his personal position as it would seem he has participated on a number of loss-making syndicates.

The first priority for any member of Lloyd's is to select both his agent and syndicates with great care. However, it should not be forgotten that one is entering a risk business which means that losses can be made by even the best syndicates. May I add, I speak from personal experience.

Reference is made in the article to the provision of stop loss policies for names, in which it suggests that claims are not being met for various reasons. It would be incorrect of me to reveal individual cases although I can assure readers that, where personal stop loss policies have been arranged for Oakley Vaughan names through this company, all valid claims have been met in full. In some cases, this has meant that Oakley Vaughan names with Holman Wade policies during 1982 have received the full policy sum insured of £100,000 as a contribution towards their underwriting losses.

If members of Lloyd's, having made a careful selection of their syndicates, wish to purchase protection on a personal basis it is, and has been for the last ten years, available to them with indemnities of up to £1 million. The key features of such a policy are sometimes overlooked, or perhaps even misunderstood, by members of Lloyd's who judge the policy only by the quoted premium rate rather than the policy wording and the security of the insurers lying behind the contract.

Members considering such cover should ensure that the policy can be used as a solvent asset, without restriction, in the event that they should suffer a shortfall of assets against liabilities. This will provide Lloyd's names and their advisers with a clue as to the quality of protection offered.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. WADE,  
Chairman, Holman Wade Insurance Brokers,  
12 Camomile Street, EC3.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

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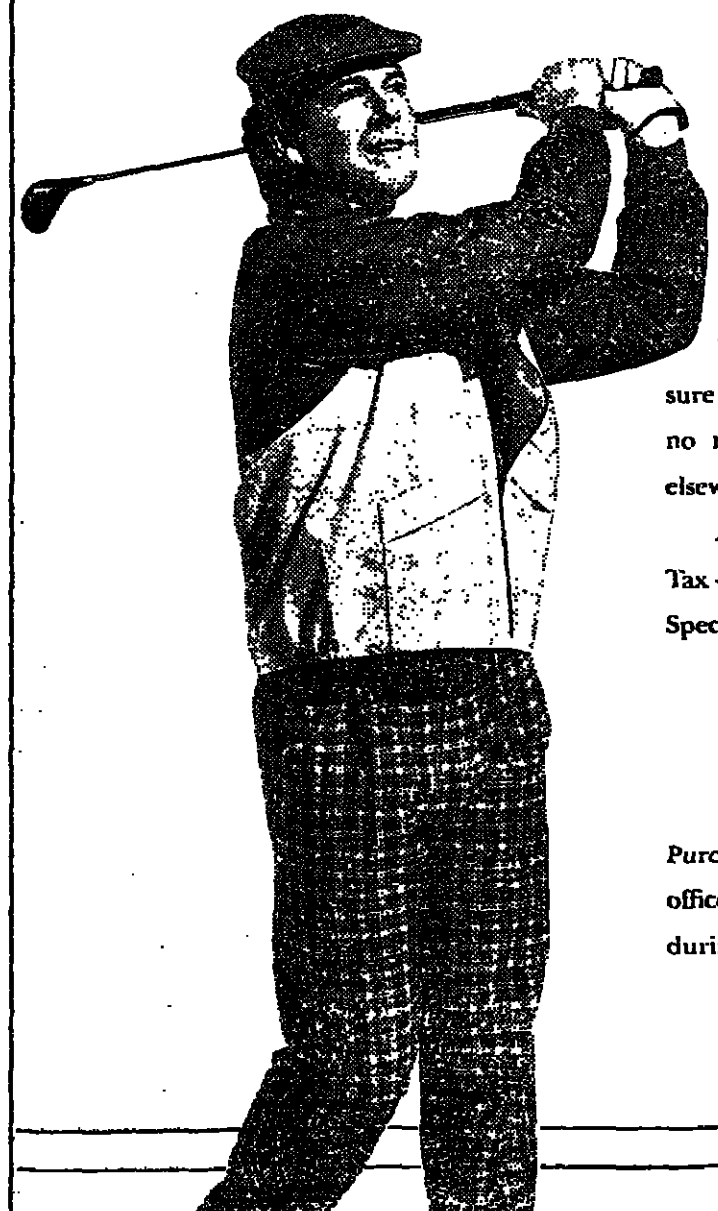
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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**

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Once upon a time only fly-by-nights claimed a cheque was in the post when it was not. Now it seems that the registrars' departments of the high street clearing banks are following in their footsteps.

Thousands of investors in the electricity privatisation of December are still waiting for their refund cheques and interim share certificates.

They are growing more cross by the day as the next privatisation is under way and they appear to be forgotten. This week the investor incentives for PowerGen and National Power were announced and registrations invited by the middle of next month to qualify.

Those among them who registered for the incentives offered by the regional electricity companies will be relieved to know that they need not telephone again to qualify for the bonus shares or discounts on the next privatisation.

Many of them have spent too long on the telephone over the

last five weeks trying to locate their certificates and cheques. National Westminster, Lloyds and Barclays have set up helplines for the investors, but all too often they just ring, are constantly engaged or the person who answers seems to know less about the whereabouts of the certificates than the caller.

The excuses given to annoyed applicants are many and varied. Promises are made that all the certificates will be on their way within days. When the promises are not fulfilled, the investors find it impossible to contact the same person and find that they are given a totally different story by someone else.

Many worry that the cheque and certificate have been lost in the post. The reassurance that they will not be out of pocket, because compensation will be eventually paid on a case by case

## Fly by nights in the high street



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

basis, gives little comfort when money is outstanding. Investors who are kept waiting resent the missed opportunities to use the money elsewhere. They complain that they are likely to miss the deadline to qualify for bonuses on tax exempt special savings accounts, and may incur higher dealing charges if they do not receive their money and certificates soon.

Others argue it is unfair that they will be charged interest on their credit card bills by the same banks that have held up their refunds. They say that they

intended to pay off their bills with the profits on the sale of the shares or the refund cheques.

If the share allocations to the customers had been larger they may have had more patience, but once again the first stage of a privatisation has ended with widespread dissatisfaction.

This is not the way to encourage investors to trust their money to a shaky market for National Power and PowerGen—if they go ahead.

Nor are they learning to trust registrars. If only the banks could stop blaming each other and put

the cheques in the post, plus application forms for realistic compensation, the investors might be happier.

### Route closed

A rule change approved this week by the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association will put an end to a nonsense that has allowed some of the more dubious applicants to win approval.

Under the existing rulebook anyone applying to become a registered individual of a member firm must have their application processed within 90 days. If the regulatory organisation fails to meet the deadline the applicant is automatically deemed to have been accepted. The rule was intended to avoid

delays, but unfortunately the very cases that are likely to be rejected are the ones that can take a long time to process.

In some cases, this has meant that they received official sanction to sell investments to the public.

The association's new rulebook, which comes into effect on April 1, scraps the 90-day rule for new member firms but would still allow people with doubtful backgrounds to join existing firms and possibly gain back door acceptance.

Fimbra acted on Wednesday to change the existing rulebook to close the easy route and next month the change will be implemented.

A spokeswoman stressed that most applications are dealt with much more quickly. She said the rule had been introduced so that applicants were not left in limbo for too long.

Investors must hope that those who managed to win approval by default will be the subject of extra scrutiny.

## Woolwich aims to close trusts gap

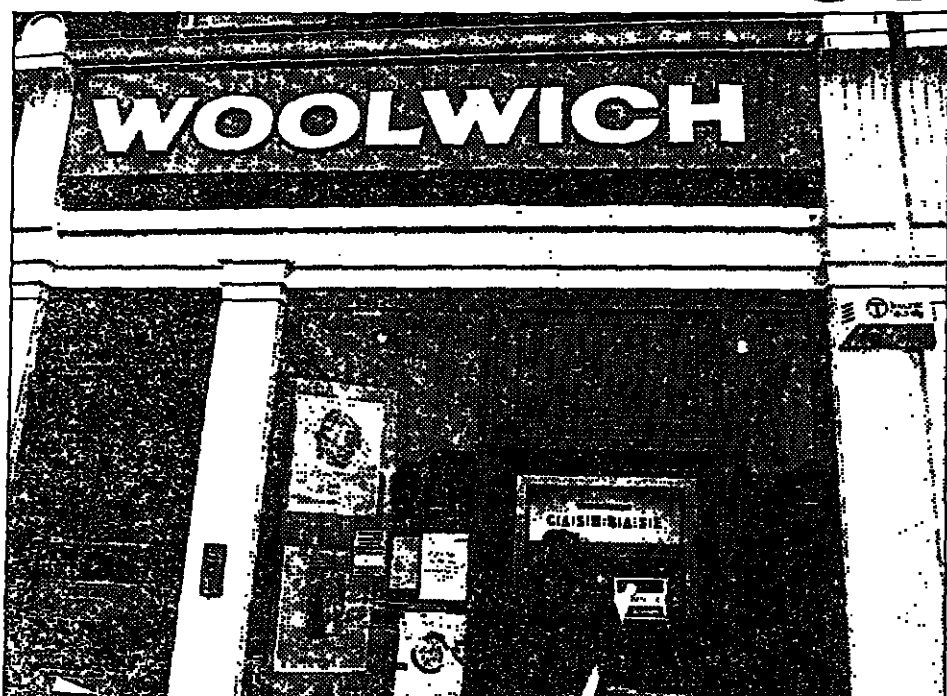
THE Woolwich Building Society wants to redress the balance between shareholders and unit trust investors among building society customers. One adult in five owns shares but only one in 30 has unit trusts (Lindsay Cook writes).

According to market research carried out for the Woolwich, the third largest society, many unit trust investors did not understand how they operated, how to sell the units or which piece of paper was the unit trust certificate.

On Monday the society will launch a unit trust that can be bought or sold instantly through its 550 branches. No certificates will be issued. Each unitholder will be given a plastic identification card and a purchase or sale note on the spot giving the price and number of units dealt.

Those selling will be able to walk away with a cheque on transactions worth up to £15,000, once they have satisfied the society that they are the unitholder.

The Woolwich Stockmarket Fund will invest in 30 to 40 leading British companies such as British Gas, Tesco, Glaxo and Cable and Wireless. The price of units will be set at 5 pm each day and customers will be able to buy and sell at that price all the following day, including Saturdays. Only if the market moves by 2 per cent or more



Instant service: Woolwich branches will buy and sell its new unit trust on the spot

between valuations will unitholders be asked to deal without knowing the price of the units.

The fund, managed by Mercury Asset Management, is intended as a long term investment of at least three years. Investors can choose to make lump sum investments of £500 or more or regular monthly payments. Both of these options can be used for a

tax-free personal equity plan. The society is also offering people with £5,000 the opportunity to invest in the stockmarket fund without risking their original capital.

With the Capital Guarantee Plan, the lump sum is put into a savings account earning from 9.52 per cent and each month the interest is used to buy units in the fund. At the minimum level, £39.66 of

units could be bought each month. There is an initial fee of 5 per cent plus a yearly management charge of 1.25 per cent. The difference between buying and selling prices should be about 6 per cent.

● The Halifax Building Society offers an execution-only dealing service through its branches for its Global Advantage personal equity plan launched in September.

## Savers face decision time with end of composite tax

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

COMPOSITE rate tax will be scrapped on April 6. The change affects all bank and building society savers who, over the next few weeks, must make decisions that could make a substantial difference to the amount of interest they earn and how much tax they pay on it.

Some institutions are trying to make sure that both taxpayers and non-taxpayers gain the highest return on their savings as composite rate tax is scrapped on April 6 and replaced by basic rate tax.

Others, it appears, have paid scant regard to the lower composite rate tax and have for some time quoted net interest rates that are lower than they ought to be.

Composite rate tax, which is paid to the Inland Revenue by banks and building societies on behalf of savers, is currently set at 22 per cent, compared with basic rate income tax of 25 per cent.

Some savings institutions seem to have handed over 22 per cent to the Inland Revenue for all their savers, while quoting net interest rates 25 per cent lower than the gross.

This, they say, is a legitimate way of calculating interest rates and accounting for the tax due. It does, however, make it difficult for many taxpayers to know what to do about their savings accounts.

In the majority of cases it will pay them to make sure they receive an extra interest payment on or before April 5. This should then be taxed at 22 per cent instead of the 25 per cent rate that will come into operation on April 6. If

their bank or building society is already anticipating the change in legislation and deducting tax at 25 per cent, there will be no advantage in closing an account and re-opening it to achieve the interest payment.

Many banks and building societies are offering extra interest payments to avoid the necessity for such drastic action. Others will agree to such arrangements if asked by "good customers". But they are not advertising the fact for fear of a deluge of requests.

The Halifax Building Society announced this week that customers can request an extra interest payment by filling in a form before April 2. The form is available in branches.

The society, which usually credits interest at the end of January, calculates that the extra payment of interest earned during February and March will make about £7 difference to a basic rate taxpayer who has £10,000 in a Halifax 90-day notice account.

Those with £50,000 in the account can gain £30 to £40 and it is better in their pockets than the Inland Revenue's," said a spokesman. The society made the decision to offer the extra payment after requests from "a significant number of investors".

Abbey National usually pays interest annually on June 1 on its Sterling Asset account. Taxpayers have been building up interest in their accounts since June 2 last year. This would all have been taxed at 25 per cent, but Abbey National has decided to make the payment on April 1 to give

most savers a higher return. This should give basic rate taxpayers with £10,000 about £40 more and those with £25,000 an extra £105.

Not all taxpayers will benefit from extra payments. Those who pay tax at the higher 40 per cent rate will have to find the additional tax on their savings a year earlier.

Those nearing the £20,700 taxable income threshold for higher rate tax may find the additional interest payment puts them over the limit, costing them far more than they have saved. These savers and non-taxpayers have until April to switch back to the June payment. Already 12 per cent of account holders have done so.

Lloyds Bank circularised all branches at the beginning of the year and will allow savers with its instant access, 30-day and 90-day accounts the option of earning either monthly interest until April or to have an annual interest payment.

But there is plenty of room for confusion for investors, as a spokeswoman said: "There is no fixed relationship between the gross and net rates quoted for accounts." This means savers will have to be sure they are going to benefit before changing the timing of their interest payments.

National Westminster Bank's most popular savings account, the Special Reserve, pays interest quarterly with the next payment due on March 25. However, savers could be confused by its rates of interest. The bank quotes a net rate of 9 per cent on the account, which is 25 per cent

less than the gross rate quoted at 12 per cent.

A spokesman explained: "It cannot be automatically assumed that the net rate is the gross rate less composite rate tax. That is not always the case."

An investor who asked the Town & Country Building Society for an interim payment was told it was pointless as the society already deducted tax on all savings accounts at 25 per cent, although it only paid 22 per cent to the Inland Revenue.

The saver asked for a written explanation. This came stating that the society had always deducted tax at the basic rate. The difference was used to fund competitive products. He closed his account.

The scrapping of composite rate tax will allow about 15 million savers who are non-taxpayers to register with their bank or building society and to earn interest on their savings without deduction of any tax. The other 20 million savers will pay more tax from April 6.

It may also be unclear to the taxpayers what interest rate they will be receiving from that date. Banks and building societies will be quoting gross rates on savings, even though the majority of savers will receive interest net of tax.

Net equivalent rates will also be given, but savers will be told these are for illustrative purposes only. Investors will need to be careful if they are not to be confused by the high gross rates when they will only earn the lower net.

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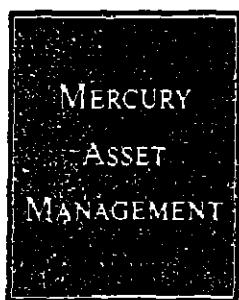
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### Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 33).

Share No	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekly
1	+6	+2	+1	+3	+6			
2	+9	+2	+3	+3	+5			
3	+4	+1	+1	+2	+5			
4	+5	+2	+3	+2	+6			
5	+3	+1	+1	+2	+5			
6	+9	+1	+3	+2	+5			
7	+8	+3	+5	+6	+3			
8	+3	+3	+3	+2	+7			
9	+3	+1	+2	+1	+7			
10	+6	+3	+5	+6	+5			
11	+5	+5	+6	+5	+5			
12	+2	+1	+1	+3	+6			
13	+6	+3	+6	+6	+4			
14	+8	+1	+2	+2	+4			
15	+4	+1	+2	+3	+6			
16	+2	+1	+1	+2	+5			
17	+4	+2	+1	+4	+7			
18	+4	+1	+1	+1	+6			
19	+7	+1	+3	+3	+4			
20	+3	+2	+2	+4	+7			
21	+3	+1	+1	+3	+6			
22	+7	+1	+2	+3	+4			
23	+7	+4	+8	+5	+4			
24	+8	+1	+1	+3	+3			
25	+4	+3	+3	+3	+7			
26	+2	+2	+1	+2	+6			
27	+5	+5	+5	+7	+5			
28	+8	+2	+4	+2	+3			
29	+4	+1	+2	+4	+9			
30	+8	+2	+4	+4	+3			
31	+3	+2	+2	+2	+5			
32	+8	+1	+2	+2	+5			
33	+5	+3	+5	+7	+3			
34	+4	+1	+1	+2	+6			
35	+4	+1	+1	+2	+8			
36	+6	+3	+6	+6	+4			
37	+7	+1	+4	+4	+4			
38	+7	+5	+7	+8	+4			
39	+2	+2	+1	+3	+7			
40	+5	+2	+4	+6	+3			
41	+5	+2	+2	+3	+7			
42	+4	+1	+2	+2	+7			
43	+6	+3	+6	+5	+3			
44	+9	+1	+2	+4	+4			

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مركز الإعلام



# The born outsider who dares to take on the establishment

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Sir Gordon Borrie

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, champion of the consumer, scourge of estate agents, time share operators and second hand car dealers, can clearly remember the first time he became concerned about consumer affairs.

His favourite aunt had taken him on a shopping trip to Bradford which, he recalls, involved a gratifyingly long journey on the top of a bus, a slap-up lunch, cream tea and shopping at Brown Muff's, the now extinct department store. Having run up the down-escalator and down the up-escalator, he became frustrated that he could not see over the counters because he was too short. Then he noticed a desk with pads of paper marked "complaints forms" and was soon busily writing out his protestation that the counters were too high. Sir Gordon was seven years old.

The tale reveals much about his precocity as a child. He was exceptionally bright, curious and impatient, jumping a year at grammar school and starting to study law at Manchester University at the age of 16. Now, six weeks away from his sixtieth birthday, he retains many of these traits.

Chief among these are his curiosity and readiness to meddle. After nearly 15 years at the Office of Fair Trading where he has a large but drab office, Sir Gordon could be forgiven had he become a trifle jaded. But, on the contrary, he is full of enthusiasm for the job. He still has a reputation as a troublemaker.

Borrie is as happy investigating the activities of the establishment as he is car dealers, estate agents, travel agents, brewers and loan sharks. He has looked into almost 10,000 trade deals to see if they are restrictive and has advised ministers on more than 3,000 take-overs. He has a strong sense of the public interest and is no respecter of persons. His membership of the Garrick and the Reform did not prevent him from pursuing the Stock Exchange through the courts for restrictive practices, an episode ending in 1986 with "big bang" and a radical change in the way the City does its business.

Borrie is not the dry old stick that he is often perceived to be. He is a dapper little man with squirrel-like features, a tidy and precise style and an elegant mind. He has a passion for ballroom dancing.

Dorene, his Canadian wife, describes him as lively and amusing, incredibly tidy and frightfully conscientious. "What attracted me to him was his integrity and fair-mindedness. He has a great deal of compassion for people. He can get very angry, but that is rare. People taking advantage of their positions make him angry. He is a passionate anti-smoker."

"He likes dressing up, he always likes to be smart and he never walks around with his hands in his pockets. He is a very good dancer. If we happen to be in London at the weekend we enjoy going to the Waldorf tea dance on a Sunday afternoon; sometimes we go to The Ritz. One of our best holidays was a trip on the QE2 where they have a wonderful orchestra. He's very graceful on the dance floor."

Lord Alexander, chairman of National Westminster Bank, describes Sir Gordon as "a quietly

spoken, sensitive man who has a good sense of humour and a wide range of interests. He is a very agreeable companion and someone who is deeply, genuinely and intellectually interested in his job."

Sir Gordon is a survivor. An astute politician, he works closely with the trade secretary, Peter Lilley is his twelfth. At one time he was strongly connected with the Labour party yet he survived 11 years of Thatcherism in a post that confers power and responsibility in equally large doses.

Professor Ian Scott, of Birmingham University, who worked with Borrie in the Sixties and Seventies says: "He has a clear mind and an analytical approach to things without being too fussy. He is known for his elegance and clarity. He is decisive and a very controlled person. You never see him having one drink too many. He likes to socialise and have people round to his house, but he does things on his terms. He doesn't entertain out of a sense of obligation or self-indulgence."

"He's sociable and entertaining company but he is not a show-off nor a gossip. You wouldn't tell Gordon the latest dirty joke but he is not prudish. He has quite a strong presence. If you walk into a room you can often feel Gordon before you see him."

The job of director general is an ideal one for Borrie. It allows him to combine his interest in politics, the law and consumer affairs. It appeals to his sociable nature and gives him scope to indulge in public speaking. Recently his appointment was confirmed for one more year. He will leave for good in June 1992.

"The other regulatory jobs are confined to industry specifics, such as telecommunications, gas, financial services," he says. "This job is incredibly wide and varied. It is hard work but one could never be bored."

Surprisingly enough, for one who has survived the entire time as prime minister, Borrie has never met Margaret Thatcher. Sir Bernard Ingham, who was in charge of Mrs Thatcher's media relations, recently told Sir Gordon that she had never wanted to meet "quasi-judicial regulators". Insiders say that while she rightly did not regard Borrie as "one of us" she supported the work of the OFT and was impressed with his competence. At any rate, she put her initials against his reappointment in 1981.

Politics has been a life-long passion for Borrie. He was introduced to current affairs by a history master at school. But the 1945 Labour election victory heralded the real start of his interest. "I thought it was marvellous," he says. "I would bore my family and others with enthusiastic interest for working out percentages and majorities."

His father knew a couple of MPs, one of whom took him round the House of Commons when he was 15. The visit made a

big impression. Borrie's parents were Conservative voters living in suburban Croydon, but they were tolerant of his political fervour. "Whether my attraction to the Labour party was a bit of teenage rebellion, I don't know," says the unlikely rebel.

"I went to election meetings and read newspapers. I thought that creating a national health service and funding legal aid for the poor were marvellous things. I couldn't see any rational grounds for opposing them."

In 1954, at the age of 23, he fulfilled a long-standing ambition by becoming the Labour candidate for Croydon North-East. He lost in the general election but stood again in 1959 for Ilford South. He lost for a second time and did not stand again.

Professor Scott says that despite his regrets, Borrie does not come across as a frustrated politician. Had he become a politician, his loss of confidence in the Labour party would almost certainly have been more traumatic for him.

"I was a Labour supporter at least until 1970. I don't think that after 1974 I had any enthusiasm for a Labour victory. I became less concerned with party politics and more concerned that somebody, anybody, should do something about the lack of legal aid and other social issues."

"I'm glad I don't have to vote in

**'Those of Gordon's vintage and background were accepted for the first time. Britain was ready to look beyond the old boy network. Gordon has enormous talent, but he has also been lucky. Things tend to happen to him'**

the House of Commons nowadays because I don't really know where I would stand. I think if I were to stand again I would like to be an independent MP, but that is impractical nowadays. Certainly if there was a general election next week I don't know which way I'd vote." Could he ever see himself voting for John Major? He thinks for a while before saying "yes".

Sir Gordon may be chairman of the Reform Club and a member of the Garrick Club. He may have been knighted in 1982 and become a QC in 1986. But he is a born outsider, something that has helped rather than hindered him in his present job. His battle with the Stock Exchange was a high profile one. There were lengthy court proceedings. Borrie took the view that the practice of brokers working on fixed commissions was against the public interest and that the Stock Exchange rule book that restricted membership and access to markets was more suited to an exclusive gentlemen's club than a vital part of London's securities industry.

"If there are significant restrictive practices in an arrangement I have a legal requirement to take the matter to court," says Borrie. "At the time he met with total resistance from the Stock Exchange and in the end Cecil Parkinson, who was then trade secretary, intervened by issuing new legislation."

"At the time I thought it was gross interference on Cecil Parkin-

son's part and an easy let-out for the Stock Exchange," says Borrie. Then I realised that all that I was seeking to do was achieved more cleanly and quickly by legislation than it would have been through court proceedings."

Borrie's father was a solicitor who worked in Chancery Lane, London, and commuted first class from Croydon. The first class ticket was one of few extravagances. Family holidays were taken at Bexhill-on-Sea, and after the second world war in North

Wales, where the family moved in 1939 to escape the blitz. Gordon was the third of five children, one of whom died in childhood. He was the brightest and the only one to go to university. His early education was at the John Bright Grammar School in Llandudno, followed by Manchester University where he was chairman of the Labour club.

In addition to his political ambition, he had always wanted to be a barrister and after two years national service, most of which was spent rather agreeably in



Reputation as a troublemaker: Sir Gordon at his Worcestershire home where he spends weekends with wife Dorene

Japan, he went into chambers. He is acutely aware of the old boy network that exists within the City and within the Bar. He believes it is as strong today as it ever was.

But Professor Scott argues that Borrie is part of the British meritocracy, the first successful wave. "Those of Gordon's vintage and background were accepted for the first time. Britain was ready to look beyond the old boy network. Gordon has enormous talent, but he has also been lucky. Things tend to happen to him."

He was more successful as a barrister than a politician, but only just. It was a difficult time to practise and there was not a great deal of work around. Along with many contemporaries, such as Sir Robin Day, he gave up the Bar and moved into academia. He initially taught at The College of Law in London, the Law Society's school for solicitors, before moving to Birmingham University in 1964 where he became Professor of English Law in 1968.

Sir Gordon has always been a natty dresser and was considered a fashionable in the Sixties. Professor Scott says: "He never had enough hair to wear it shoulder length but he would have done so if he could."

He was appointed director general of fair trading in 1976 by Shirley Williams, initially for five years. By this time his special interest in consumer affairs was well known. He sat on several committees and had published

books and papers on the subject. Borrie has never shied away from making controversial decisions. He was deeply involved with the takeover of the House of Fraser by the Fayed brothers, a case that has won out several ministers and which Sir Gordon believes is bound to crop up again.

"It has been rather tiresome, particularly because of the obnoxiousness of Tiny Rowland," he says. "I have done my job to the best of my ability. The objectives of the OFT are to promote the economic interests of consumers and to promote competition."

"If someone of doubtful reputation is in charge of a company and someone else's ambitions to be in charge of that company are upset, it is not a matter of concern to me even though, in theory, I can advise the government to refer any merger above a certain size to the monopolies commission."

Borrie says that had he known the damning findings of the DTI report into the takeover before he made his initial decision it would not have made any difference to his decision not to refer the Fayed's bid. "Criminal proceedings were possible. The DTI, for reasons I do not know, and it is not my role to advise them, decided not to take action. But there is really nothing I can do."

Sir Gordon has been married to Dorene for 30 years. They met in London and had a whirlwind romance. She graduated from the

University of Toronto and studied French, History and Spanish literature at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Dorene describes herself as "his number one fan. I think he's wonderful". They have no children, something Sir Gordon occasionally regrets. His two-year-old god-daughter makes him feel nostalgic.

They have lived in the same house in the Worcestershire countryside for 20 years but have a flat in The Temple, London's legal enclave, where they both live during the week. Sir Gordon's job takes him out to social functions at least twice a week. Dorene accompanies him when she can.

Apart from dancing, Sir Gordon likes to play the piano, favouring Chopin and Mozart, with the occasional Scott Joplin when he is feeling bouncy. He is an avid reader, particularly of biographies. He enjoys writing and harbours an ambition to write his memoirs.

He says he does not know what he will do when his term of office comes to an end. He will seek variety and may find fulfilment in the law, business or academia. He loves travelling and is keen to revisit the eastern European countries. Both Lord Alexander and Professor Scott could see him in the House of Lords.

Whatever he chooses to do he is likely to bring the same degree of commitment, confidence and curiosity that are his hallmarks at the OFT. The impatient young man of the Fifties is at ease with himself, a round peg in a round hole.

## Death of the salaried worker

### CAPITAL CITY

JOANNA FITMAN IN TOKYO

IS CORPORATE Japan working its population to death? Daiken Iwata and his wife would doubtless respond with a resounding "Yes". Last year they filed a lawsuit against Fuji Bank charging that the death of Sakae, their daughter, aged 23, had been caused by excessive overwork forced upon her by the bank.

The Japanese have a special word, *karoshi*, meaning "death by overwork". Miss Iwata's was just one of tens of thousands of work-related deaths estimated to occur in the corridors of corporate Japan every year. As an administrative clerk in Fuji Bank's Kabutocho branch foreign exchange department, Miss Iwata slugged away every night, without eating or resting, until well after 10 pm.

While such slavish overtime hours far exceeded the legal limit, Miss Iwata and her colleagues were instructed to understate the hours worked on their time sheets. Despite her requests for support, the bank is alleged to have refused to take on extra staff. It was sickening to its "efficiency improvement policy", which in 1987 had achieved a targeted 50 per cent reduction of regular employees.

A month before she died she told her parents: "I will be killed if this condition continues". Her apparently selfless sense of responsibility and claims that her absence would only foist more work on her colleagues, prompted her to struggle on until she finally collapsed and died from a severe asthma attack in June 1989.

While this sad case is, like many, still languishing in the courts, the history of *karoshi*



Near collapse: Tokyo workers

related lawsuits does not bode well for the Iwatas. The ministry of labour claims that overwork can be considered the cause of death only when the victim worked for 24 hours continuously preceding death. It also claims that four hours of overtime does not count as overwork.

The widow of a 43-year-old *karoshi* victim recently revealed that her husband had worked a 17-hour day and taken no holidays for months prior to his death. He had several times confided to her that "the salaried workers of prosperous Japan live in con-

ditions worse than slaves". In spite of the adverse publicity surrounding the Iwata case and others, corporate Japan does not appear to be loosening the screws on its employees. Last November, a survey of salaried workers in the Tokyo region by Fukoku Life Insurance revealed that 80 per cent of the 500 respondents believed they are seriously over-worked. About 40 per cent thought they might die from the rigours of their job and 70 per cent said they felt continuous stress.

The survey also disclosed further ammunition for foreign trade negotiators who have been chivvying the Japanese government to cut down the annual working hours of its industrious workforce. One third said they took less than ten days of vacation a year. More than half chose to waive a week on the beach for fear of work piling up in their absence, and 20 per cent were afraid of falling behind colleagues.

Two years ago, foreign negotiators attempting to put the brakes on Japan's inexorable global advance persuaded the country's financial institutions to cut their working week to five days. Previously they had worked alternate Saturdays. Lost hours were quickly made up, however, when banks promptly scrapped the annual six days' leave earmarked for weddings, funerals and other family occasions, and arranged for extra overtime.

At Fuji Bank this meant that workers gained a decadent four hours a year, or just five minutes a week, to be spent strap-hanging on Tokyo's crowded subway trains.

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## SUMMARY

### Trade gap narrows to £844m

BRITAIN'S visible trade deficit fell to its lowest level in December since April 1987, at £844 million from £980 million in November. It brought the gap for the year to £17.9 billion a decline of almost £5 billion since 1989.

The deteriorating trade in invisible exports contributed to an annual current account deficit of £16.1 billion, down from £19.6 billion the previous year.

City economists believe the surge in exports has come to an end and that much of the progress in 1990 has not been the result of any structural improvement. Page 29

### Knight errant



Sir Gordon Borrie is sociable, lively and amusing. His role as director general of the Office of Fair Trading gives him the opportunity to become involved in consumer affairs, law and politics, he told Gillian Bowditch. Page 37

### SAS cuts jobs

The Gulf war has been blamed by Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS), the Swedish-Danish airline, for the axing of 3,500 jobs out of a total of 22,000. Page 29

### Bank warning

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp., in which Midland Bank has a 14.9 per cent stake, has given warning that 1990 profits will be substantially down. Page 30

### Locked homes

Old people could receive a larger income from unlocking the equity in their homes if a campaign by Age Concern, the charity, calling for the tax relief limit on mortgage interest to be raised to £60,000, is successful. Page 34

### Your letters

No wonder you listen... it costs me every time we communicate



One reader tells of how he received money back from the National Westminster after a series of administrative errors, while another would welcome a payment for problems he encountered at Sun Alliance and Laurentian Life. Page 35

### Savers' rates

Banks and building societies are preparing to offer new rates to savers when composite rate tax is abolished on April 6. But some already deduct tax from interest at 25 per cent. Page 36

### Spot cheques

The Woolwich is launching a new unit trust that can be bought and sold on the spot through branches. Page 36

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

#### Winner and Faith

"This Levitt chap, according to Adam Faith, was a financial genius, a man whom he and I should throw ourselves in with wholeheartedly."

Michael Winner, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

# Seeking a fair deal for families

By LINDSAY COOK MONEY EDITOR

PRESSURE is mounting on the government to improve its financial help for families. The Centre for Policy Studies has this month called for the return of the child tax allowance 15 years after it was phased out and for a substantial rise in under-fives child benefit.

A report published last summer by 70 national charities and organisations committed to restoring the value of child benefit showed how far Britain has fallen behind many other European countries.

The government is expected to give more generous treatment to child benefit this year after the October announcement of the first improvement in child benefit since 1987. From April the benefit will increase by £1 a week to £8.25 for first-born and stay at £7.25 for subsequent children. It gives a monthly average of £35.75 for a first child and £31.42 for others.

This contrasts with Belgium where a first child receives £31 a month, a second £37 and third and subsequent children £36. There are also supplements for children over six, and parents of two children can deduct 20 per cent

from their tax bills. In France parents of two children receive a minimum of £47.60. This rises for older children and if the mother gives up work, an upbringing allowance of more than £200 is paid. In addition, those parents buying their homes can obtain more tax relief on their mortgages for each dependent child.

Mortgage tax relief is similarly increased in Germany, Austria and Luxembourg. The latter is one of the most generous where children are concerned. Although a first child only merits £28 a month, two receive £85 and three a total of £188. Children over six receive a supplement and a child tax allowance is also available.

In the Netherlands the amount of child benefit rises with the number of children and their age. A family with five children over 12 would receive £59 for each. Danish parents receive about £100 per child each month but there is no tax allowance.

Before the child tax allowance was phased out in Britain, it was paid to the husband of married couples. It could also be claimed

by working single mothers. The amount received by families depended on the number of children, their age on April 6 and the level at which the father paid tax.

In 1976-7 the tax allowance for a child under 11 was £300. Basic rate tax was 35 per cent and the top rate of income tax was 83 per cent. This made the allowance worth from £105 a year up to £249. Up to age 15, the allowance was £335, while children aged 16 and over in full-time education qualified for £365. If a child had their own income of £350 or more the allowance was reduced by £1 for every pound over the limit.

If the allowances had been indexed to inflation they would now stand at £701.40, £783.23 and £853.37. This would give basic rate taxpayers an extra £175.35 a year for young children and £213.34 for 16 and over, and high rate payers £280.56 or £341.35.

The Centre for Policy Studies points out that £1,000 per child would cost nearly £3 billion a year, while doubling child benefit for the under fives to £15 and abolishing it for older children would

save £1 billion a year. The logic behind the suggestion is that the highest cost of children for all families is in the early years.

The *Employment Gazette* for December showed 60 per cent of mothers of children up to four do not work and of those who do, 27 per cent work part-time and 12 per cent full time. As soon as children start school the figures are reversed with 66 per cent working and 34 per cent at home.

This puts financial pressures on families that have been used to two incomes and have to budget for extra expenditure on one. Mothers who choose to return to work while their children are young have to pay for child care.

Before tax-free child benefit was introduced mothers received a taxable family allowance for all except the first child. This worked out at £1.50 a week in 1975.

Hopes of a childcare bonanza being offered by companies wanting to lure mothers back to work have fallen victim to the recession. Childcare vouchers and subsidised nurseries have not proliferated.



Happy daze: Playing at a nursery school, oblivious to the cost

## New Man pays his way for childcare

By SARA MCCONNELL

MIKE Allen has two children, Eden, aged five-and-a-half, and Frances, aged one. Frances attends the recently opened Floral Place nursery in Islington, North London, on three mornings a week and all day on Tuesday and Thursday.

The £420 a month fee comes partly from Mr Allen's £11,500 salary as a part-time research officer on the *European Industrial Relations Review* part of Eclipse Publications, and partly through a company subsidy.

Eclipse pays roughly half of the £1,260 quarterly cost of nursery care. Mortgage payments and other expenses come mainly out of his wife's £27,000 salary as a pension fund manager in the City.

Mr Allen said: "We are both fairly well paid but we can only just about afford a half-time place at Floral Place. It is expensive but attractive because of its high child/staff ratio. At the moment we don't want full pre-school childcare because we feel we want to spend time with the children."

Mr Allen works for a company that pays a certain amount of money into a childcare fund every year. Last year the amount was £6,000. The fund pays out means-tested benefits to employees to

spend as they like on a nanny, a nursery place or a child minder.

Wendy Mitchell also works for a company which pays part of the cost of childcare. She is a director of RDS Market Research, which pays 50 per cent of the £565 a month it costs for Ben, her three year old son, to attend Floral Place. Alex, her other son, aged five months, is about to go to Floral Place and Ms Mitchell and

Mitchell. "We originally had the nursery at the office and when it was on site we got tax relief."

She declined to say how much she earned but added: "The cost of care does not make a huge dent in my salary. High quality childcare is very expensive, although it can be cheaper outside London."

Other companies do not make any contribution to childcare. Fenella Gentleman, whose daughter

did not like the idea of a single surrogate mother. "The nursery is a more healthy environment. But we can only afford it with one child. With two children we may have to consider a live-in nanny."

Some parents say they need the flexibility of having a live-in nanny. Jane McNeill and her husband John Holloway decided to employ a live-in nanny for her two children, Archie aged two-and-a-half and Louisa, aged one.

"I didn't fancy a nursery when I may have to go into work at 7 o'clock in the morning," said Ms McNeill. "It may be all right for people who work regular hours."

Ms McNeill works a 30-hour week as assistant to the managing partner of Ciba-M.I.D., a firm of strategic management consultants. She pays her live-in nanny £100 a week and on top of that has to pay £56 in tax and National Insurance contributions for the nanny every month. She also pays her nanny's poll tax as do most parents she knows with nannies.

"You have to earn quite a reasonable salary to be able to afford a nanny," she said. "The problem in London is that many people have moved away from their natural base and don't have a family group who can look after the children if necessary."

"The problem is that many people have moved away from their natural base and don't have a family group who can look after the children if necessary"

her husband David Kelsey will have to pay the higher baby rate of £150 a week. RDS contributed to the cost of setting up Floral Place and is also involved in the management, as Ms Mitchell sits on the steering committee of the nursery.

The company is hoping that its involvement will mean its employees will not have to pay tax on the benefit but is waiting to hear from the Inland Revenue.

"We very much hope we will be able to get tax relief," said Ms

ter, Lucy, aged five-and-a-half months, has attended Floral Place since she was three months old, does not receive any contribution from her company, WRM Partnership, a building and design consultancy, where she is the marketing and public relations manager.

Ms Gentleman said: "The firm is considering the question of childcare. But the cost of care is an anxiety. It makes a big dent in the budget."

But she rejected the alternative of a nanny for Lucy because she

## No cheap options for children when mother returns to work

MOTHERS who return to work after having children may be faced with earning a minimum of £13,200 just to pay for child care. The highest costs are in London, but they can eat further into lower salaries outside the capital (Sara McConnell writes).

Parents paying for childcare do not receive any help through the tax system apart from limited concessions granted last year in John Major's only Budget. Workplace nurseries subsidised by an employer are no longer taxed as benefits in kind.

But parents whose employers have set up nurseries are in a tiny minority. According to the National Childminding Association, there are only 3,000 places in workplace nurseries across the country. Local authority provision for pre-school children is also difficult to find.

A spokeswoman for the National Childminding Association said: "It is virtually impossible to get a place in a local authority nursery. They are normally for children from broken homes or for children who are emotionally disturbed."

An increasing number of parents who both work have little option but to pay for a nanny, either living in or coming in by the day. Alternatively, parents can pay for a place in a nursery for a pre-school child or take them to a childminder. Unless the employer agrees to fund part of the cost, which depending on how this is done, could be taxable, parents have to foot the bill themselves, receiving no help either through the tax or benefit systems.

Susan Hay, director of Susan Hay Associates, the London childcare consultant, said the cost of a nursery place ranges from about £130 a week to £185 for some of the smartest London nurseries.

The recently opened nursery run by Susan Hay Associates, Floral Place in Islington, London, costs £130 a week for children from 18 months to five years old.

The nursery charges £150 for babies up to 18 months old because Islington council insists on a child to staff ratio of 1:3 instead of the less labour-intensive 1:5 for older children.

Ms Hay said: "There is not much profit in this figure. The cost of our service is no greater than any other. The real cost of a place at a social services nursery is more than £120 a week."

Salaries for day nannies are about £100 a week outside London, going up to £150 in central London, while live-in nannies are paid slightly less. This is because employers provide board and lodging as well as a salary.

Cecily Roth, managing director of Cara Agency, a nanny agency based in Reigate, Surrey, said that

**'A mother must earn £13,200 a year before basic tax to cover a live-in nanny paid £130 a week after tax'**

it made little difference to the cost whether a nanny was qualified, or unqualified and experienced. Some are neither but would expect to earn about the same salary.

"Some of the nannies we place have minimal experience and no qualifications but are taking a year off before going to university and are bright and intelligent," said Ms Roth.

Liz Hanson, tax manager at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, estimated that a mother or father returning to work would have to earn £13,200 a year before tax at basic rate just to cover the cost of employing a live-in nanny taking home £130 a week after tax. This assumes that the nanny and the employer both have a personal allowance of £3,005.

Employers have to pay nanny's tax and national insurance contributions, which bring the weekly total up to about £170. National insurance contributions

on salaries of between £125 and £174 gross a week fall into the 9 per cent band.

They also have to pay employers' national insurance contributions of about £15. This total of £185 comes out of the employer's net income and represents about £254 a week gross. Other nanny-linked costs could include poll tax for live-in help, food and telephone calls.

Parents would have to make a similar calculation if they were considering nursery care. Ms Hanson said. But a nursery place at £130 a week would work out slightly cheaper for just one child because there would be no employers' national insurance contribution and the parent would not have to gross up the nanny's salary to cover her tax and NIC. The parent would need to earn £8,840 a year gross, to cover the cost of care.

A higher rate taxpayer who is paying the cost of a live-in nanny totally out of income taxed at 40 per cent would have to earn £16,060 gross to cover the cost of a live-in nanny earning £130 a week net. The same taxpayer would have to earn £11,270 gross to pay for a nursery place at £130 a week.

These figures assume that the childcare does not qualify for the benefit in kind exemption.

A cheaper option than a live-in nanny or private nursery is childminding. Childminders are registered with the local authority and are allowed to look after up to three children, including their own, at home.

Guidelines from the National Childminding Association (NCA) lay down a minimum average rate throughout the country of £45 for a full time 50-hour week. From April 1, the NCA will recommend a national average minimum of £50. However, the NCA said childminders could and would negotiate their own rates as they were self-employed.

"Rates can vary between areas of the same city," said the spokeswoman.

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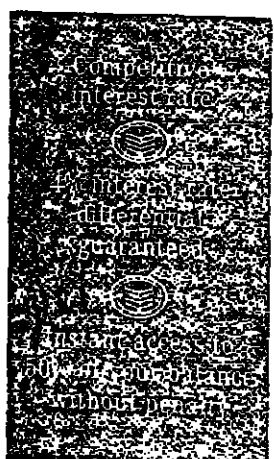
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